

Strengthening Climate Resilience on the Comoros Coastal Zone Through Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Review PIF and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11111

Countries

Comoros

Project Name

Strengthening Climate Resilience on the Comoros Coastal Zone Through Ecosystem-based Adaptation

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

4/11/2023

Review completed by PM

4/13/2023

Program Manager

Fareeha Iqbal

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

FSP

GEF-8 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF) REVIEW SHEET

1. General Project Information / Eligibility

a) Does the project meet the criteria for eligibility for GEF funding?

b) Is the General Project Information table correctly populated?

Secretariat's Comments

GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared. Thank you for correcting the title. The GEF Sec will correct the 'Region' selection.

GEF Sec, 4/7/23:

Not yet.

i) The title in the LoE (?Strengthening Climate Resilience on the Comoros Coastal Zone Through Ecosystem based Adaptation?) is different than the title in Portal (?Ecosystem-based adaptation of the Comoros coastal zone?). Please change either change the LoE or modify the title in Portal so that both match. The title can be modified at a later stage.

ii) In the General Project Information section: Please enter the correct option for ?Region?. It currently states ?Comoros?, which is not a region.

Agency's Comments

5/03/2023

i) Project title in the Portal has been corrected to read ?Strengthening Climate Resilience on the Comoros Coastal Zone Through Ecosystem-based Adaptation?. It has also been corrected in the PIF document.

ii) General Project Information section:
=>This being a national (Country) project, the portal does not provide us with an option to select the project region.(find screenshot below) The only time Agencies can select the Project Region, is only when a project is a regional project and Regional Option is selected. **However, we have sent an email to GEF ITS requesting them to update the Region option to Africa on our behalf.**

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
11111

Project Title* ⓘ
Strengthening Climate Resilience on the Comoros Coa

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund*
Least Developed Country

Project Tags
 CBIT NGI SGP Innovation

Lead Agency*
UNEP

Lead Agency's Project ID
N/A

Other GEF Agencies Agency Project ID ⓘ

[+ Add Other Agency](#)

* Global Regional Country

Comoros

2. Project Summary

Does the project summary concisely describe the problem to be addressed, the project objective and the strategies to deliver the GEBs or adaptation benefits and other key expected results?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/7/23:

Adjustment is requested.

i) Please include a sentence or two in the Summary about expected changes in climate, and vulnerability to these.

ii) Indicative Project Overview Table ? it looks as though there is a duplication of "M&E" in Component 4 and the M&E section ? please revise (one option could be to rename Component 4 as ?Learning?.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023

i) Sentences describing climate projections and potential impacts have been added to the Summary.

ii) Component 4 has been revised to Learning only, and Output 4.1.2 removed. Text on M&E has been kept as a separate section to describe the project's M&E approach.

3 Indicative Project Overview

3.1 a) Is the project objective presented as a concise statement and clear?

b) Are the components, outcomes and outputs sound, appropriate and sufficiently clear to achieve the project objective and the core indicators per the stated Theory of Change?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Adjustment is requested.

The project objective is currently to "Reduce the vulnerability of Comorian coastal zone communities by restoring, protecting, and sustainably managing coastal ecosystems that provide protective, regulating, and productive ecosystem services". We requested that, this being an adaptation project, the project objective include reference to climate change and state instead: "Reduce the vulnerability of Comorian coastal zone communities **to climate change** by restoring, protecting, and sustainably managing coastal ecosystems that provide protective, regulating, and productive ecosystem services.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

This is agreed, and proposed objective adopted. Revisions have been made in the Summary, Table, and ToC diagram.

3.2 Are gender dimensions, knowledge management, and monitoring and evaluation included within the project components and appropriately funded?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Further information is requested.

a) Please provide further information on how the project will promote gender equality and enhance women's resilience to climate change.

b) Please provide additional detail in the description (as relevant) for each component, as has been done for Component 3.

c) Can the Agency confirm that a Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be prepared during project preparation and submitted as part of the CEO Endorsement package?

d) Please reflect on how gender equality considerations will be taken into account in Component 4 : Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023

- a) We have added information on how the project will promote gender equality and enhance women's resilience to climate change as part of each component description. Several output phrasings already integrated the gender dimension, including Component 1, but where further opportunities were identified additional text has been inserted. During the PPG phase, a comprehensive gender analysis and GAP will be developed and will help further define activities that promote gender equality and enhance women's resilience to climate change.
- b) See response to a)
- c) Yes, UNEP confirms that a Gender Analysis and Action Plan will be prepared during the project preparation and submitted as part of the CEO Endorsement package. This statement is added to Section D.
- d) See response to a).

3.3 a) Are the components adequately funded?

b) Are the GEF Project Financing and Co-Financing contributions to PMC proportional?

c) Is the PMC equal to or below 5% of the total GEF grant for FSPs or 10% for MSPs? If the requested PMC is above the caps, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, April 13, 2023:

Adjustment is requested.

There is currently no proportionality in the co-financing contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 5%, for a co-financing of \$42,927,034 the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$2,146,351 instead of \$50,000 (which is 1.1%). As the costs associated with the project management have to be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be in the same proportion, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

The co-financing plan has been adjusted to have the same proportionality between LDCF grant and co-financing in PMC as well as in activities.

4 Project Outline

A. Project Rationale

4.1 SITUATION ANALYSIS

a) is the current situation (including global environmental problems, key contextual drivers of environmental degradation, climate vulnerability) clearly and adequately described from a systems perspective?

b) Are the key barriers and enablers identified?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

4.2 JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT

a) Is there an indication of why the project approach has been selected over other potential options?

b) Does it ensure resilience to future changes in the drivers?

c) Is there a description of how the GEF alternative will build on ongoing/previous investments (GEF and non-GEF), lessons and experiences in the country/region?

d) are the relevant stakeholders and their roles adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

5 B. Project Description

5.1 THEORY OF CHANGE

a) Is there a concise theory of change that describes the project logic, including how the project design elements will contribute to the objective, the expected causal pathways, and the key assumptions underlying these?

b) Are the key outputs of each component defined (where possible)?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

5.2 INCREMENTAL/ADDITIONAL COST REASONING

Is the incremental/additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes, the reasoning for any additional cost associated with climate change impacts (over cost for business as usual) is clear.

Agency's Comments

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

a) Is the institutional setting, including potential executing partners, outlined and a rationale provided?

b) Comments to proposed agency execution support (if agency expects to request exception).

c) Is there a description of potential coordination and cooperation with ongoing GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area

d) Are the proposed elements to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning outputs and strategic communication adequately described?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared, thank you.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Further information is requested.

(a) Yes.

(b) The Agency (UNEP) has specified that it expects to play an execution role in this project. However, in the LoE, there is no mention of UNEP. There is only mention of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Tourism and Handicrafts. Please remove this.

(c) It is noted that the project proposes coordination with GCF-supported initiatives in the country. We would like to see further elaboration of this coordination by CEO Endorsement.

(d) Please include a Knowledge Management Plan and a Communication Strategy by CEO Endorsement stage, including a budget and timeline for their implementation.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

- a) n/a
- b) UNEP will not be involved in execution, and the inconsistent text in the risks table referring to this has been removed and the portal information corrected.
- c) UNEP confirms that at the PPG stage, further details on the project's proposed coordination with GCF-supported and other ongoing initiatives and projects in the country will be further elaborated by CEO Endorsement.
- d) The following text has been added to the Knowledge Management Section of the PIF:
?At PPG stage, further details of the project's proposed approach to Knowledge Management and Learning will be described, including a budget and timeline for the implementation of the Knowledge Management Plan and Communication Strategy.?

5.4 a) Are the identified core indicators calculated using the methodology included in the corresponding Guidelines (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)?

b) Are the project's indicative targeted contributions to GEBs (measured through core indicators)/adaptation benefits reasonable and achievable?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Further information is requested.

Would the Agency consider training a larger number of people than the amount specified for the Core Indicator 4 value (1,000 people)?

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

We reviewed and corrected the total number of people trained to 2,450 (1,250 men and 1,200 women) as per Outputs 1.2.2 and 2.1.4. It is expected this number will increase during PPG since training of beneficiaries and stakeholders features as an integral activity across all other Outputs.

We have inserted a summary of all proposed targets against LDCF Core Indicators.

5.5 NGI Only: Is there a justification of financial structure and use of financial instrument with concessionality levels?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

5.6 RISKS

- a) Are climate risks and other main risks relevant to the project described and addressed within the project concept design?**
- b) Are the key risks that might affect the project preparation and implementation phases identified and adequately rated?**
- c) Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately screened and rated at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?**

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes. A Risk Matrix has been included with key risks have been identified and rated. The Environmental and Social Safeguard Screening Form has been uploaded, which includes consideration of climate change risks.

Agency's Comments

5.7 Qualitative assessment

- a) Does the project intend to be well integrated, durable, and transformative?**
- b) Is there potential for innovation and scaling-up?**
- c) Will the project contribute to an improved alignment of national policies (policy coherence)?**

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Further information is requested.

The project and its solutions are integrated, and it will contribute to strengthening of policies through adaptation mainstreaming. However, the Agency is requested to please discuss:

- durability of the outcomes;
- how the proposed solutions are innovative;
- how communities and CSOs will be engaged in project implementation.

Please provide a more detailed upscaling strategy by CEO Endorsement.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

On the elements requested:

1. Durability of outcomes: The project logic hinges on the assumption that working on building the enabling environment through work on policy coherence; building capacity for planning; taking participatory approaches to build local ownership of actions, and raising awareness of climate risks and adaptation solutions all contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project Outcomes.

The project's durability is supported by seven (7) transformation pathways underpinning the ToC namely:

Pathway 1 : harmonizing the policy environment, which can lead to the mobilization of additional adaptation finance, and scaling of adaptation action (LDCF Transformation Lever 1);

Pathway 2 : Capacity development to create an enabling environment that can support NAP implementation and scaling of adaptation action (LDCF Transformation Lever 2);

Pathway 3 : Strengthening participatory results monitoring results to influence decision-making and behaviours and leverage additional adaptation finance for coastal zones (LDCF Transformation Lever 3);

Pathway 4 : By transferring the management of coastal and marine resources to local communities, while simultaneously building capacity for environmental law enforcement, lead to behavioral change towards sustained protection of key ecosystems providing adaptation benefits(LDCF Transformation Lever 2);

Pathway 5 : By supporting a participatory approach to restoration, the project builds ownership and lead to behavioral change towards sustained protection of key ecosystems providing adaptation benefits, and ultimately helps secure livelihoods and protect lives in coastal zones (LDCF Transformation Levers 2, 3, and whole-of-society approach);

Pathway 6 : By capacitating a network of business coaches and incubators, leads to self-sustained provision of services for ecosystem-based climate-resilient MSMEs (LDCF Transformation Lever 3); and

Pathway 7: Awareness raising activities as they relate to sustainable and climate-smart management of ecosystems foster behavioral change of local populations, increase adoption of good practices, and ultimately lead to an increased resilience to climate hazards in coastal zones (LDCF Transformation Lever 3)

2. Innovativeness: There are several elements of the proposed approach to the project that are innovative in the context of the Comoros. This includes focusing on a systems approach to address threats to coastal ecosystems, including looking partnering with construction sector actors to address demand for beach sand, etc; supporting climate-resilient businesses through value chain approaches and developing advisory services that have the potential to become self-sustained; and more. Specifics on innovativeness is weaved through the project narrative, and will be further expanded upon during the PPG phase.

3. Engagement with communities: The project describes a participatory approach to the majority of its activities and sees a central role to be played by CSOs and local communities. Further details of how the project proposes to engage with these critical stakeholder during implementation will be provided at CEO Endorsement as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and these stakeholders will also be consulted during PPG phase.

UNEP confirms that at the PPG stage a more detailed upscaling strategy will be provided by CEO Endorsement.

6 C. Alignment with GEF-8 Programming Strategies and Country/Regional Priorities

6.1 Is the project adequately aligned with focal area and integrated program strategies and objectives, and/or adaptation priorities?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes, it is aligned with the LDCF Strategy for the 2022-26 period.

Agency's Comments

6.2 Is the project alignment/coherent with country and regional priorities, policies, strategies and plans (including those related to the MEAs and to relevant sectors)

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes. It is aligned with Comoros's NDC (2022).

Agency's Comments

6.3 For projects aiming to generate biodiversity benefits (regardless of what the source of the resources is - i.e. BD, CC or LD), does the project clearly identify which of the 23 targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework the project contributes to and how it contributes to the identified target(s)?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

N/A. The project does not propose to generate biodiversity benefits.

Agency's Comments

7 D. Policy Requirements

7.1 Is the Policy Requirements section completed?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes, although further information has been requested for the CEO Endorsement stage (see comments for CEO Endorsement stage further below in the review sheet).

Agency's Comments

7.2 Is a list of stakeholders consulted during PIF development, including dates of these consultations, provided?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

8 Annexes

Annex A: Financing Tables

8.1 Is the proposed GEF financing (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

STAR allocation?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

Focal Area allocation?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

LDCF under the principle of equitable access?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

SCCF A (SIDS)?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

SCCF B (Tech Transfer, Innovation, Private Sector)?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

Focal Area Set Aside?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

8.2 Is the PPG requested within the allowable cap (per size of project)? If requested, has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes the PPG requested is within the allowable cap.

Agency's Comments

8.3 Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Further information is requested.

The explanation of how investment mobilized was identified is missing. Please provide this explanation.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

The following text has been inserted: ?Investment mobilized was identified through consultations with national level stakeholders, including government officials, who

provided a mapping of ongoing and planned interventions in the country that are complementary to this project, and will likely contribute to the achievement of its Outcomes.?

Annex B: Endorsements

8.4 Has the project been endorsed by the country's(ies) GEF OFP and has the OFP at the time of PIF submission name and position been checked against the GEF database?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared. The agency has corrected the mismatch in the project title and removed reference to UNEP execution from the PIF.

GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Please see review comments relating to (a) project title and (b) ?Coordination and Cooperation with ongoing initiatives and projects? for comments about the LoE.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

- a) Project title correct in the Portal and in the PIF
- b) UNEP confirms that at the PPG stage, further details on the project's proposed coordination with GCF-supported and other ongoing initiatives and projects in the country will be further elaborated by CEO Endorsement

Are the OFP endorsement letters uploaded to the GEF Portal (compiled as a single document, if applicable)?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Do the letters follow the correct format and are the endorsed amounts consistent with the amounts included in the Portal?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

8.5 For NGI projects (which may not require LoEs), has the Agency informed the OFP(s) of the project to be submitted?

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

Annex C: Project Location

8.6 Is there preliminary georeferenced information and a map of the project's intended location?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/23:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Action requested.

The Agency has discussed the project sites. However, the map of the project's intended location(s) has not yet been uploaded. As the document that the LDCF Council will see will only be the Portal entry of the PIF, please upload the map to the main Portal entry (instead of a separate uploaded annex of the project sites).

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

The map of the project's intended locations has been uploaded in the Portal.

Annex D: Safeguards Screen and Rating

8.7 If there are safeguard screening documents or other ESS documents prepared, have these been uploaded to the GEF Portal?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes. The ESS screening form has been uploaded.

Agency's Comments

Annex E: Rio Markers

8.8 Are the Rio Markers for CCM, CCA, BD and LD correctly selected, if applicable?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Annex F: Taxonomy Worksheet

8.9 Is the project properly tagged with the appropriate keywords?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 4/12/23:

Yes.

Agency's Comments

Annex G: NGI Relevant Annexes

8.10 Does the project provide sufficient detail (indicative term sheet) to take a decision on the following selection criteria: co-financing ratios, financial terms and conditions, and financial additionality? If not, please provide comments. Does the project provide a detailed reflow table to assess the project capacity of generating reflows? If not, please provide comments. Is the Partner Agency eligible to administer concessional finance? If not, please provide comments.

Secretariat's Comments n/a

Agency's Comments

9 GEFSEC Decision

9.1 Is the PIF and PPG (if requested) recommended for technical clearance?

Secretariat's Comments GEF Sec, 5/4/2023:

Yes.

GEF Sec, 5/3/2023:

Not yet. Please include the Agency responses in the review sheet.

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

Not yet. Please address the review comments.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

All review comments have been addressed.

**9.2 Additional Comments to be considered by the Agency at the time of CEO Endorsement/
Approval**

Secretariat's Comments

GEF Sec, 4/13/23:

1- As the ESS screening form provided at PIF stage states "Yes" for whether "outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g. changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)", please provide by CEO endorsement stage an assessment of the risks on the project outputs and outcomes and the risk mitigation measures that will be taken.

2 - Please upload the Gender Analysis and Action Plan at time of CEO Endorsement.

3 - Please upload the Stakeholder Engagement Plan at time of CEO Endorsement.

4 - Please include a Knowledge Management Plan and a Communication Strategy, including a budget and timeline for their implementation.

5 - Please provide an upscaling strategy by CEO Endorsement.

Agency's Comments

05/03/2023:

This is noted and will be provided at CEO Endorsement stage.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	4/13/2023	5/3/2023
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/3/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/4/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		