



Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

11007

Project Type

MSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

CBIT No

NGI No

Project Title

Strengthening the Sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby, recognized as particularly important for the conservation of biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire

Countries

Cote d'Ivoire

Agency(ies)

UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)

Abidjan Convention Secretariat

Executing Partner Type

Others

GEF Focal Area

Biodiversity

Sector

Mixed & Others

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Mainstreaming, Fisheries, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Biomes, Coral Reefs, Mangroves, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Influencing models, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approaches, Stakeholders, Private Sector, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Participation, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Communications, Strategic Communications, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Education, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Targeted Research, Innovation, Learning, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Adaptive management, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

No Contribution 0

Climate Change Adaptation

No Contribution 0

Biodiversity

Principal Objective 2

Land Degradation

No Contribution 0

Submission Date

8/15/2023

Expected Implementation Start

1/31/2024

Expected Completion Date

1/31/2027

Duration

36In Months

Agency Fee(\$)

124,684.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-2-7	BD 2.7: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate Expected Outcome 9: The ecological representativeness of protected area systems, and their coverage of protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, of particular importance for biodiversity is increased, especially habitats for threatened species.	GET	1,320,000.00	10,000,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			1,320,000.00	10,000,000.00

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To increase the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co- Financing(\$)
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Improved Policy, Regulatory frameworks and capacity for the management of the Grand Beriby	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome</p> <p>1.1: The Grand-Beriby MPA landscape and seascapes Institutional , Regulatory Framework, and Technical capacity Established with due gender consideration .</p> <p>Indicator 8 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Effectiveness of consultation meetings based on the adoption of community feedback into the project's framework.</p> <p>Target: 80% of community feedback from consultation meetings is incorporated</p>	<p>1.1.1. Establish a multi-sectoral platform, including community participation, to address marine biodiversity loss in Grand Beriby landscape/seascapes.</p> <p>1.1.2. Develop climate-resilient management and business plans for Grand Beriby MPA with a focus on technical, capacity, and gender considerations.</p> <p>1.1.3. Negotiate 2-3 agreements between OIPR and various sectors to support Grand-Beriby MPA management.</p> <p>1.1.4. Conduct gender-sensitive trainings and develop tools to enhance the capacity of stakeholders for MPA management.</p> <p>1.1.5. Produce and implement gender-sensitive awareness materials for GB</p>	GET	400,000.00	3,000,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		into project plans.	MPA management.			
		Indicator 9 (GEF Core Indicators 1 and 2.2) : Extent to which developed management plans are implemented and their impact on the resilience to climate change.				
		Target: Out of 10 developed management plans, at least 8 should be fully implemented with tangible evidence of increased resilience to climate change in managed areas.				
		Indicator 10 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Effectiveness and active collaboration				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>derived from the cooperation agreements signed. Target: 100% of the 6 cooperation agreements signed are actively implemented, leading to tangible collaborative actions or interventions in the project.</p>				
		<p>Indicator 11 (GEF Cores 1 & 2.2): Number of gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy materials developed</p>				
		<p>Target: 15 awareness raising materials</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Gender sensitive Alternative livelihood in support of MPA	Investment	<p>2.1. Available for both men and women alternatives Livelihood options to reduce pressure on Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes increase revenue and provide long term financing of the PA..</p> <p>Indicator 12 (GEF Core Indicators 1& 2.2): Number of value chains assessed in the feasibility study</p> <p>Target: At least 7 potential value chains assessed</p> <p>Indicator 13: (GEF Core Indicator 11) Percenta</p>	<p>2.1.1. Conduct a gender-sensitive feasibility study on valorizing Grand Bereby's marine landscapes in support of management plans and reduction of pressure on the MPA.</p> <p>2.1.2. Identify and implement gender-sensitive, climate-smart income generation alternatives activities through small-scale funding.</p> <p>Output 2.1.3: Develop and Implement a Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Grand Bereby MPA.</p>	GET	650,000.00	4,550,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>ge increase in household income from AIGA options</p>				
		<p>Target: At least 20% increase in household income from AIGA options (from baseline, assessed during project inception)</p>				
		<p>Indicator 14 (GEF Core Indicator1 & 2.2): Percentage of the Grand-Bereby MPA's operational budget funded through the financial mechanism.</p>				
		<p>Target: At least 65% of the MPA's annual operational budget is covered by revenues generated</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
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through the financial mechanism.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Knowledge management and MPA and project monitoring	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3.1: Improved stakeholders including both men and women, capacities for the management and monitoring of the Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone through the use of knowledge platforms and adequate monitoring frameworks.</p> <p>Indicator 15 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Impact (change in behaviors, practices) resulting from the implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring indicators.</p> <p>Target: 80% of the targeted stakeholders demonstrate improved gender-sensitive behaviors and practices</p>	<p>3.1.1. Disseminate gender-sensitive materials to promote sustainable management of Grand Bereby MPA.</p> <p>3.1.2. Establish a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for Grand Bereby MPA.</p> <p>3.1.3. Implement a gender-sensitive Project Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	GET	150,000.00	1,500,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>as a result of using the identified monitoring indicators.</p>				
		<p>Indicator 16 (GEF Core Indicator 1&2.2) and 1: Percentage of project activities that are adjusted or modified based on insights from the gender-sensitive indicators incorporated into the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>				
		<p>Target: At least 70% of project activities demonstrate adaptability based on gender-sensitive indicator feedback.</p>				
		<p>Indicator 17 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Enhancement in decision-making quality among</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>project stakeholders as a result of improved understanding and use of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools.</p>				
		<p>Target: 85% of stakeholders report that gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools have positively influenced their decision-making processes within the project context.</p>				
		<p>Indicator 18 (GEF Core Indicator 11): Percentage of stakeholders demonstrating enhanced skills and capabilities in MPA management practices post-training and capacity-</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		building sessions.				
		Target: At least 90% of trained stakeholders exhibit improved capacity and effective MPA management practices within 12 months post-training.				
				Sub Total (\$)	1,200,000.00	9,050,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
	GET				120,000.00	950,000.00
				Sub Total(\$)	120,000.00	950,000.00
				Total Project Cost(\$)	1,320,000.00	10,000,000.00

Please provide justification

C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
Donor Agency	Abidjan Convention - Enhancing Environmental Treaties in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Countries ? ACP MEAs III	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ivorian Office of Parcs and Reserve (OIPR)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00
Donor Agency	UNEP-Abidjan Convention WACA Project	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,500,000.00
GEF Agency	UNEP-Abidjan Convention Secretariat	Grant	Investment mobilized	300,000.00
Other	Debt Swap Facility 3rd C2D3	Grant	Investment mobilized	6,200,000.00
Total Co-Financing(\$)				10,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

1. The \$6.2 million investment mobilized from the C2D3/OIPR are part of the resources in cash the Cote d'Ivoire earn as a Debt SWAMP from France Government and which are investment to run the Protected Areas physical activities on the ground related to restoration and conservation work. These funds are also invested in established infrastructures including fencing, and building and also to purchase logistic equipment including vehicles to manage effectively the Protected Area network of the Country. 2. The \$3 million investment mobilized through the Abidjan Convention and from ACP MEAS III and WACA projects are the resources from these projects which are use to conduct capacity-building activities for parties in the area of PA management. The funds are also being used to conduct restoration activities on the ground. The resources are also used to do capacity-building activities to build resilience of PA and communities.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	1,320,000	124,684	1,444,684.00
Total Grant Resources(\$)					1,320,000.00	124,684.00	1,444,684.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required **true**

PPG Amount (\$)

30,000

PPG Agency Fee (\$)

2,850

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)	Total(\$)
UNEP	GET	Cote d'Ivoire	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	30,000	2,850	32,850.00
Total Project Costs(\$)					30,000.00	2,850.00	32,850.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	13,571.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	13,571.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
<input type="checkbox"/> GB PA	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Park		13,571.00			20.00		

Indicator 2 Marine protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	272,375.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 2.1 Marine Protected Areas Newly created

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 2.2 Marine Protected Areas Under improved management effectiveness

Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	272,375.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	W DP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
<input type="checkbox"/> Grand Bereby National Park	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Park		272,375.00			20.00		

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
444029.00	444029.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
444,029.00	444,029.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided

Disaggregation Type	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported

Name of the OECMs	WDPA-ID	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	1,500	1,500		
Male	1,500	1,500		
Total	3000	3000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

Explanation: ? Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use ? Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (272,375 hectares):Is the area of the MPA calculated from boundary coordinates during the PPG using Geographic Information System. See Figure 8. ? Area of landscapes under improved practices (444,029 hectares): This number represent the total landscape bordering the AMP where rubber and other agriculture productions are conducted with consequent pollution from chemicals and other agricultural pollutants. This area will be targeted by the project for awareness raising and promotion of sustainable production. ? Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment (3,000): This number include at least 30% of the Grand Lahu population (around 900,000 people from 2014 census published in 2021), artisanal and industrial fishing communities which include many migrant communities; the mining communities; the population at national level who will benefit from legal framework

related to coastal zones and MPA management. Details of each group of beneficiaries will be provided at CEO endorsement.

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

Table 1. Changes from PIF to Ceo endorsement.

Original PIF	Project design
The size of the Marine Protected Area was estimated at 246,207 hectares	This area has now been revised to 272,375 hectares. The area was computed using Geographic Information Systems.
Outcome 2.1 do not include financing mechanism for the MPA sustainability	Outcome 2.1 and related outputs and indicators revised to include creation of financial mechanism for MPA sustainability as output 2.1.3
Project Outputs were long, cumbersome and lacking in coherence with the project logic	Project Outputs have been streamlines to provide a clearer coherence with the project logic ? based on reviewer advice.

Cote d'Ivoire is a West African country located on the Gulf of Guinea. It is bordered by Liberia, Guinea, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. It has a population of over 27.48 million people, with an annual growth rate of 2.5%^[1]¹. **The male population is estimated to be 14,752,980 people, while the female population is estimated to be 14,596,828 people. The sex ratio is 0.97 male(s) per female.** It has a poverty rate of 46.3% in 2015^[2]², and a gross domestic product (GDP) per capita of \$2,549 USD in 2021^[3]³. The country covers an area of approximately 322,462 square kilometers, and its people are largely dependent on agriculture and natural resources for their livelihoods.

The climate of Cote d'Ivoire is characterized by a wet and dry tropical climate. The country has a rainy season from April to October, and a dry season from November to March. The southern part of the country is more humid and has more rainfall than the northern part. The country is divided into four agroecological zones, which are the forest zone, the savanna zone, the coastal zone, and the mountain zone^[4]⁴. Each zone has its unique characteristics, and each is home to different plant and animal species^[5]⁵. The forest zone, which covers about a third of the country, is known for its dense rainforest and its wildlife. The savanna zone is characterized by grasslands and open woodlands and is home to wildlife such as antelopes, baboons, and elephants. The mountain zone, located in the northwest of the country, is characterized by highlands and is home to several endemic plant and animal species. The coastal zone of Cote d'Ivoire covers an area of approximately 580 km, and it is characterized by sandy beaches, lagoons, and estuaries. The coastal zone is an essential area for the country's economy, as it is home to the country's main ports, including Abidjan, and San Pedro.

The country is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, including primates, elephants, and lions[6]. The country has several protected areas, including national parks and nature reserves, aimed at preserving its rich biodiversity. However, the country faces many challenges in biodiversity conservation, including deforestation, overfishing, and illegal wildlife trade[7]. These activities not only threaten the country's wildlife but also the livelihoods of its people, who depend on the natural resources for their survival.

Cote d'Ivoire is vulnerable to climate change, which has a significant impact on its agricultural sector and the livelihoods of its people. The country has experienced an increase in temperatures, erratic rainfall patterns, and sea level rise, leading to a decline in crop yields and increased food insecurity. As a result, efforts are being made to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote sustainable development in the country.

[1] United Nations Population Division. World Population Prospects: 2022 Revision. UN Population Division Data Portal. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

<https://population.un.org/dataportal/>

[2] WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, POVCALNET as of February 2020, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

[3] World Bank Group (2023) GDP per capita (current US\$) - Cote d'Ivoire. World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files. Washington DC, USA.

<https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.CD?locations=CI>

[4] Bonny, Beket & Adjoumani, Koffi & Seka, Dagou & Koffi, Kouam? & Kouonon, L?onie & kouame kevin, Koffi & Bi Iri?, Zoro. (2019). Agromorphological divergence among four agro-ecological populations of Bambara groundnut (*Vigna subterranea* (L.) Verdc.) in C?te d'Ivoire. *Annals of Agricultural Sciences*. 64. 10.1016/j.aos.2019.04.001.

[5] N?Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, C?te d'Ivoire.

[6] Animalia (2023) Animals of C?te d'Ivoire. <https://animalia.bio/cote-divoire-animals>

[7] N?Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, C?te d'Ivoire.



Figure 1. C?te d'Ivoire - major geographical features.

Agroecological zones and land use patterns

Agroecological zones in Cote d'Ivoire can be broadly categorized into seven distinct zones, each with unique agro-ecological features and land use patterns[1]. The southern region of the country, which includes the coastal strip and adjoining areas, is characterized by a tropical humid climate with an annual rainfall of 1,500 mm to 2,000 mm. The region is known for its vast rainforest and savanna forest reserves, which provide habitats for a variety of flora and fauna. The region is suitable for the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, and oil palm, which are major export commodities for the country[2].

The central region of Cote d'Ivoire, which includes the Sassandra-Marahou? and Lakes regions, has a tropical wet and dry climate, with an annual rainfall of between 1,200 mm to 1,800 mm. This region is characterized by rolling hills and plateaus, as well as vast grasslands, which make it ideal for livestock farming[3]. Cash crops such as rubber, palm oil, and cocoa are also cultivated in this region[4], although on a smaller scale compared to the southern region.

The northern region of the country, which includes the Savanes and Worodougou regions, has a semi-arid climate with an annual rainfall of less than 1,000 mm[5]. This region is characterized by vast savanna grasslands and scattered trees, which make it suitable for livestock farming. Crops such as maize, sorghum, millet, and rice are also grown in the region, although on a limited scale due to the aridity of the area.

The western region of Cote d'Ivoire, which includes the Cavally and Gu?mon regions, has a tropical humid climate with an annual rainfall of 1,500 mm to 2,000 mm[6]. The region is characterized by dense rainforests and is suitable for the cultivation of crops such as cocoa, coffee, and oil palm, which are major export commodities for the country. Additionally, this region has an important mining sector, with gold, manganese, nickel, and bauxite being the main minerals extracted.

The agroecological zones in Cote d'Ivoire have been subjected to varying degrees of degradation and deforestation, largely due to the expansion of agriculture and other land uses, such as mining and logging. As a result, there is a need for sustainable land use practices and conservation efforts to ensure the protection and restoration of the country's rich biodiversity and ecosystems.

Importance of coastal areas in Cote d'Ivoire

Coastal areas are of great importance to Cote d'Ivoire, as they play a crucial role in the country's economy and support the livelihoods of millions of people. The country's coastline is approximately 580 km long and consists of sandy beaches, lagoons, and estuaries. The coastal area is home to the country's main ports, including Abidjan and San Pedro, which are essential for the country's import and export trade[7]. The coastal zone is also a significant source of fish and seafood, providing food and income for thousands of people. Fishing is an important economic activity, with small-scale fishing being the most common form of fishing in the coastal zone. Many coastal communities rely on fishing as their primary source of income and livelihood. In addition to fishing, tourism is another significant economic activity in the coastal zone. The sandy beaches, clear waters, and diverse marine life attract tourists from around the world, contributing to the country's GDP. The coastal area is also home to several protected areas, including national parks and nature reserves, which help to conserve the country's rich biodiversity and attract eco-tourists.

Despite its importance, the coastal area in Cote d'Ivoire faces numerous challenges, including coastal erosion, pollution, and overfishing. These challenges have a significant impact on the environment and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Therefore, it is essential to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of the coastal zone to protect its ecological, social, and economic values.

Biodiversity of Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species. In terms of flora, the country has over 7,000 plant species, including many species of orchids, palm trees, and mahogany trees. The country's forests are home to several species of trees such as the African mahogany (*Khaya ivorensis*), Black Afara (*Terminalia superba*), and the Wawa tree (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*).

In terms of fauna, the country is home to a wide range of mammals, including primates such as chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), mandrills (*Mandrillus sphinx*), and colobus monkeys (*Colobus vellerosus*). Other mammals include elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), leopards (*Panthera pardus*), lions (*Panthera leo*), and several species of antelopes such as the bushbuck (*Tragelaphus scriptus*), the roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*), and the western hartebeest (*Alcelaphus buselaphus major*).

Cote d'Ivoire is also home to several species of reptiles and amphibians such as the African forest cobra (*Naja melanoleuca*), the Gaboon viper (*Bitis gabonica*), the African spurred tortoise (*Centrochelys sulcata*), and the tomato frog (*Dyscophus antongilii*)[8]8. The country has a rich avifauna, with over 700 bird species recorded. These include the African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*), the yellow-casqued wattled hornbill (*Ceratogymna elata*), and the Congo serpent eagle (*Dryotriorchis spectabilis*)[9]9.

The country's coastal areas are also rich in biodiversity, with several species of marine mammals, fish, and reptiles. These include the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the olive ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), and several species of sharks and rays such as the hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), the manta ray (*Manta birostris*), and the guitarfish (*Rhinobatos annulatus*). The coastal areas are also important breeding and foraging grounds for several bird species such as the royal tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) and the Caspian tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).

Cote d'Ivoire's rich biodiversity is a vital asset for the country, providing valuable ecosystem services and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. However, the country faces many challenges in biodiversity conservation, including habitat loss, overexploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

Major challenges to biodiversity conservation in Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire is home to a diverse range of plant and animal species, including many that are endemic to the country. Despite its efforts in biodiversity conservation, Cote d'Ivoire faces several challenges that threaten its rich natural heritage. In this section, we will discuss some of the major challenges to biodiversity conservation in Cote d'Ivoire.

Habitat loss and degradation: The most significant threat to biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire is habitat loss and degradation due to human activities such as agriculture, logging, and mining. Forests and other natural habitats are being destroyed at an alarming rate, leading to the loss of many endemic species, including primates such as the Diana monkey (*Cercopithecus diana*) and the red colobus monkey (*Procolobus badius*).

Overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade: Many species in Cote d'Ivoire, including elephants, pangolins, and primates, are at risk due to overexploitation and illegal wildlife trade. The trade in bushmeat is a significant problem, as it leads to the depletion of many wild animal populations. Additionally, illegal logging and poaching for ivory and other wildlife products threaten the survival of many species[10]10.

Climate change: Climate change poses a significant threat to biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire, particularly to species that are adapted to specific temperature and rainfall regimes. Changes in weather patterns, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and rising sea levels all have the potential to impact the country's biodiversity and the people who depend on it.

Invasive species: Invasive species pose a threat to Cote d'Ivoire's biodiversity by outcompeting native species for resources and altering ecosystems. The most significant invasive species in the country is the water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), which clogs waterways and degrades aquatic habitats.

Lack of resources and capacity: Cote d'Ivoire faces significant challenges in terms of resources and capacity for biodiversity conservation. Limited funding, inadequate infrastructure, and a lack of trained personnel all hinder efforts to protect the country's natural heritage.

Human-wildlife conflict: As human populations continue to grow and expand into natural habitats, conflicts between people and wildlife become more common. This can lead to the killing of wildlife, particularly large carnivores such as lions and leopards, which are seen as a threat to human safety and livelihoods.

Description of the project location ? Grand Bereby

Grand-Bereby is a place in the San-Pedro Region, part of the Bas Sassandra District in the southwest corner of Cote d'Ivoire. The city, second largest in the region with 129,340 people, is mostly home to indigenous Kroumen^[11]. It sits between the sea and a forest, using both for its main jobs in farming and fishing. More than half the people work in agriculture and forestry, with rubber farming being the most popular. Other important crops are oil palm and cocoa, grown by both individual farmers and in a large 35,000-hectare area called the SOGB domain^[12]. Fishing is also a key activity in the area. The majority of the population is composed of ethnic groups such as the Guere, Wobe, and Baoule. The official language spoken in the area is French, and there are also various local languages spoken by the different ethnic groups. The primary economic activity in Grand Bereby is fishing, which provides livelihoods for many families in the community. The area is known for its rich marine biodiversity, including a variety of fish species, crustaceans, and mollusks. Agriculture is also an important activity in the community, with crops such as cocoa, coffee, and palm oil being grown in the surrounding areas.

The region is also characterized by rolling hills and low-lying plains, with dense forests covering much of the area. The forests are home to a variety of plant and animal species, including monkeys, chimpanzees, and a range of birdlife. Grand Bereby's location also makes it a critical area for trade and transportation in Cote d'Ivoire. The region is home to several major ports, including the Port of San Pedro, which serves as an important gateway for the country's cocoa and coffee exports.

The coastal landscapes of Grand Bereby are characterized by a diverse range of ecosystems, including sandy beaches, rocky shores, mangrove swamps, lagoons, and estuaries. These ecosystems support a rich biodiversity of flora and fauna. The coastal waters are also home to a variety of marine life, including sea turtles, sharks, rays, and dolphins. The sandy beaches of Grand-Bereby are a popular destination for both tourists and locals. The beaches are characterized by white sand and crystal-clear waters and are ideal for swimming, sunbathing, and water sports. The rocky shores, on the other hand, provide habitat for a variety of marine organisms such as crabs, mollusks, and seaweed. The estuaries in Grand-Bereby provide critical habitats for several species of fish and other aquatic organisms. They are also important breeding and feeding grounds for many bird species. The mangrove forests that line the estuaries provide shelter and food for a variety of wildlife, including monkeys, crocodiles, and snakes. The lagoons of Grand-Bereby and M'Pouto are important fishing grounds for the local

communities. The lagoons are home to several species of fish and shellfish, which are essential for the food security and livelihoods of the local people. The lagoons also provide habitat for several species of birds, such as pelicans, herons, and flamingos.

Despite the presence of natural resources, Grand Bereby is considered one of the poorest areas in Cote d'Ivoire, with high rates of poverty and unemployment. The lack of infrastructure, including roads and healthcare facilities, also contributes to the area's challenges. The community is heavily dependent on external aid, and the lack of economic opportunities often leads to young people leaving the area in search of better opportunities. In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in tourism in Grand Bereby, as the area is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the country. However, the lack of infrastructure and services for tourists has hindered the growth of the tourism industry in the area. Grand Bereby also faces several challenges related to biodiversity conservation. One of the primary threats to the region's natural ecosystems is deforestation, as communities clear land for agriculture and logging activities. Additionally, overfishing and illegal fishing practices in the coastal waters have contributed to the depletion of fish stocks and threatened marine biodiversity. The town is also vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which have led to increased coastal erosion, flooding, and the loss of biodiversity.

[1] BNETD (2016) Réalisation d'une Étude Sur : Identification, Analyse et Cartographie des Causes de la Déforestation et de la Dégradation des Forêts en Côte d'Ivoire ; Bureau National d'Études Techniques et de Développement (BNETD): Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[2] Aka, K., Dibi, H., Koffi, J. and Bohoussou, C. (2022) Land Cover Dynamics and Assessment of the Impacts of Agricultural Pressures on Wetlands Based on Earth Observation Data: Case of the Azagny Ramsar Site in Southern Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Geoscience and Environment Protection*, 10, 43-61. doi: 10.4236/gep.2022.105004.

[3] Eroarome Martin Aregheore (2009) Country Pasture/Forage Resource Profiles - Côte d'Ivoire. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

[4] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[5] Ibid: Eroarome Martin Aregheore (2009)

[6] Ibid: Eroarome Martin Aregheore (2009)

[7] Ibid: Eroarome Martin Aregheore (2009)

[8] Animalia (2023) Animals of Côte d'Ivoire. <https://animalia.bio/cote-divoire-animals>

[9] Ibid: Animalia (2023)

[10] Kablan, Y., Diarrassouba, A., Mundry, R., Campbell, G., Normand, E., Kehl, H., . . . Boesch, C. (2019). Effects of anti-poaching patrols on the distribution of large mammals in Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire. *Oryx*, 53(3), 469-478. doi:10.1017/S0030605317001272

[11] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[12] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

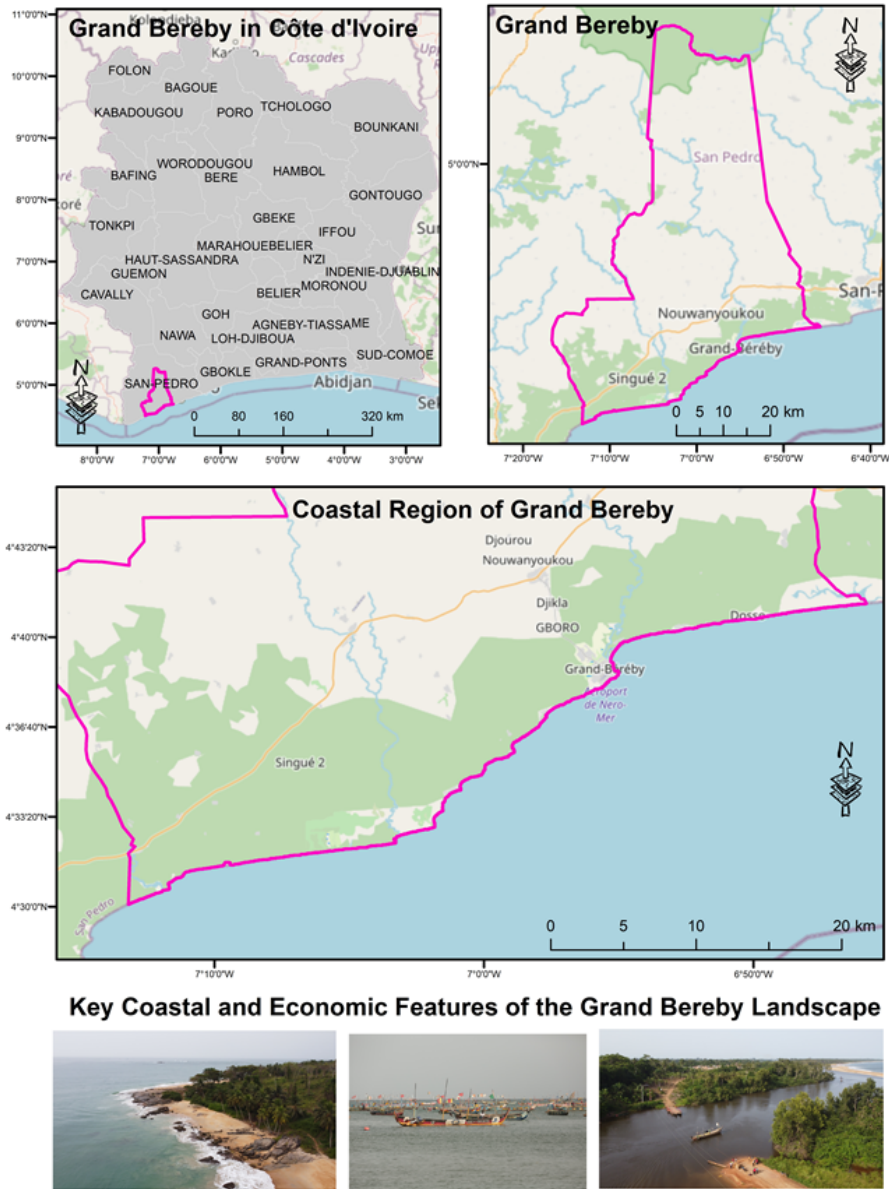


Figure 2. Grand Bereby in Cote d'Ivoire.

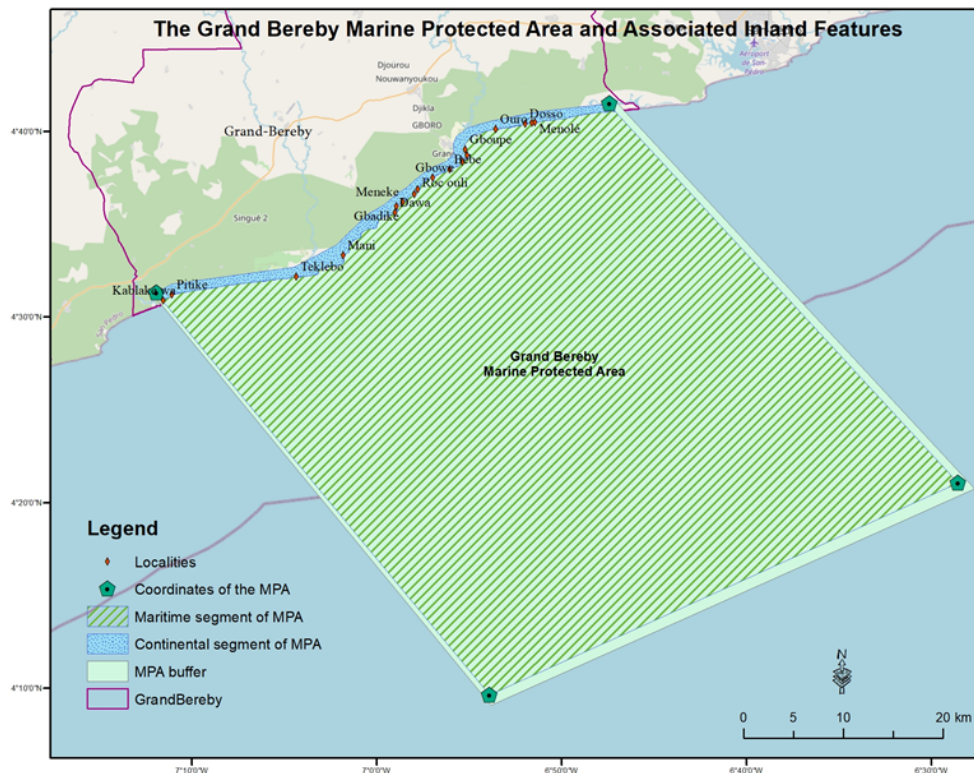


Figure 3. The Grand Bereby Marine protected area - its on-shore and off-shore extents.

Efforts are being made by the government and various organizations to promote sustainable tourism in the area and provide opportunities for the local community to benefit from tourism activities. The Ivorian government, in collaboration with international organizations and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), has taken steps to address these challenges and promote sustainable development in Grand Bereby. Efforts have been made to promote the sustainable use of natural resources, such as establishing marine protected areas and supporting community-based conservation initiatives. Additionally, tourism has been identified as a potential source of income for the local community, with efforts underway to develop eco-tourism and promote the area's unique biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Biodiversity and Protected Areas in Grand Bereby

The Grand Bereby area is characterized by a rich biodiversity that includes a variety of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The area is home to several species of flora and fauna, some of which are endemic and endangered. The mangrove forests along the coast of Grand Bereby serve as critical breeding and feeding grounds for many species of fish, crustaceans, and mollusks. The forests also provide nesting sites for various species of birds, including the African spoonbill (*Platalea alba*), the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), and the western reef heron (*Egretta gularis*).

The marine ecosystem is equally diverse and abundant in species. The waters of Grand Bereby are home to several species of sea turtles, including the critically endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), and the vulnerable olive ridley turtle

(*Lepidochelys olivacea*). These turtles are known to nest and forage along the beaches of Grand Bereby. The area is also an important habitat for several species of sharks and rays, including the critically endangered guitarfish (*Rhinobatos annulatus*), the endangered sawfish (*Pristis pristis*), and the vulnerable hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna lewini*).

To protect these and other threatened species, several protected areas have been established in the Grand Bereby area. These include the Grand Bereby Marine Turtle Sanctuary, the Grand Bereby National Park, and the Reserve Faune a l'embouchure du fleuve Dodo. These protected areas aim to conserve the unique biodiversity of the area and promote sustainable use of its natural resources. The Grand Bereby Marine Turtle Sanctuary, in particular, is the most important nesting beach for sea turtles in Cote d'Ivoire, where around 70,000 turtles are born every year.

However, despite the establishment of protected areas, the biodiversity of Grand Bereby is still under threat from various human activities such as overfishing, deforestation, and illegal wildlife trade. These activities have resulted in habitat loss and fragmentation, which have further exacerbated the already fragile state of the ecosystem. There is an urgent need for increased conservation efforts to ensure the long-term survival of the unique biodiversity of Grand Bereby.

Challenges to Biodiversity Conservation in Grand Bereby

Despite the importance of Grand Bereby's biodiversity and the existence of protected areas, there are several challenges to biodiversity conservation in the region.

The rapid expansion of human settlements and infrastructure development along the coast has led to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and degradation, resulting in the loss of critical habitats for both marine and terrestrial species in Grand Bereby. The clearing of natural vegetation for human settlements and other infrastructure projects has led to a significant loss of forest cover, which is a crucial habitat for many plant and animal species. The expansion of agricultural activities such as cocoa plantations and logging activities has also contributed to the destruction of natural habitats.

Furthermore, this development has led to increased pollution, which has significant impacts on the survival of marine and terrestrial species. Pollution from industries and human activities, such as waste disposal and oil spills, has led to the accumulation of toxins in the environment. The pollution of coastal waters and wetlands has impacted the survival of marine species, including fish and turtles, which are essential to the coastal communities' livelihood.

The increasing human population in Grand Bereby has also led to overfishing, which can lead to the depletion of fish populations and threaten the livelihoods of coastal communities. Overfishing is caused by the increased demand for fish products, leading to the use of unsustainable fishing practices, including the use of harmful fishing gear and the destruction of critical habitats such as coral reefs.

Illegal wildlife trade is another significant challenge to biodiversity conservation in Grand Bereby. This trade targets various species, including primates, pangolins, and turtles, and has contributed to the decline in some species' populations and resulted in local extinctions. The lack of law enforcement and awareness among the local communities about the importance of protecting wildlife has made it difficult to address this challenge.

Another pressing challenge to biodiversity conservation in Grand Bereby is the pervasive issue of illegal bushmeat hunting[1]. The persistence of such sales underscores the need for continued vigilance and intervention to ensure the conservation of Grand Bereby's rich and diverse ecosystems.

Climate change is also a significant threat to biodiversity conservation in Grand Bereby. Changes in sea level, temperature, and precipitation patterns can lead to the loss of habitats and the decline in some species' populations. For instance, changes in sea level can lead to the erosion of beaches, wetlands, and other coastal habitats. Extreme weather events, such as flooding and droughts, can also impact the survival of species, including agricultural crops and wild plants and animals.

Lastly, there is a lack of funding and resources for biodiversity conservation efforts in Grand Bereby. The limited availability of funding has made it difficult to implement effective conservation strategies, including the enforcement of protected areas and awareness-raising campaigns. The lack of resources has also hindered research and monitoring efforts, making it difficult to track the effectiveness of conservation measures and the status of biodiversity in the region.

Coastal environmental management in Grand Bereby

Coastal environmental management in Grand Bereby is critical to ensure the sustainability of the region's ecological, social, and economic systems. The coastal zone is a vital resource for the local communities, providing food, income, and cultural heritage. However, the rapid expansion of human settlements and infrastructure development along the coast, coupled with the effects of climate change and overfishing, has led to significant challenges in managing the coastal environment.

To address these challenges, a sustainable and inclusive management approach is necessary. This approach should include the participation of all stakeholders in decision-making processes, including the local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. The approach should also incorporate ecosystem-based management principles, which recognize the interdependence of ecological, social, and economic systems.

One critical aspect of coastal environmental management in Grand Bereby is the establishment and effective management of marine protected areas (MPAs). MPAs are designated areas that provide protection for the marine environment and its biodiversity[2]. They can also provide a range of benefits for local communities, including increased fish stocks, improved water quality, and enhanced recreational opportunities.

The recently established marine protected area in Grand Bereby is a significant step towards sustainable coastal environmental management. It covers an area of 2,600 km² and includes important sea-bed habitats, reef ecosystems, and globally significant nesting and foraging grounds for sea turtles and several species of sharks and rays. The establishment of the MPA is the culmination of years of work by the Ivorian government, the Abidjan Convention, the Swedish Government, and local NGOs.

Effective management of the MPA will require the involvement of all stakeholders and the adoption of best management practices. This can include the development of sustainable tourism practices, enforcement of fishing regulations, and the promotion of alternative livelihoods for local communities. The establishment of a community-based monitoring and evaluation system can also provide valuable data to guide decision-making and measure the effectiveness of management measures.

Sustainable coastal environmental management in Grand Bereby is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the region's ecological, social, and economic systems. The establishment and effective management of marine protected areas, along with the adoption of ecosystem-based management principles and the involvement of all stakeholders, can provide a framework for sustainable management of the region's coastal resources.

The need for sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby

The marine protected area (MPA) of Grand-Bereby is of great importance for the conservation of biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire. It is a critical nesting and foraging site for several endangered species, including sea turtles, sharks, and rays. The MPA's establishment was a significant step towards safeguarding these species and their habitats. However, the MPA's effectiveness in achieving its conservation objectives depends on its sustainable and inclusive management.

There is a need for sustainable management practices that ensure the MPA's ecological integrity while promoting the well-being of local communities. One of the key challenges in achieving this is balancing conservation objectives with the needs of local communities that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods. A sustainable management approach should seek to integrate biodiversity conservation with local development priorities, such as economic growth and poverty reduction.

Inclusive management is also critical for the MPA's success. Local communities, including indigenous peoples, fishers, and other resource users, should have a voice in decision-making processes that affect their lives and livelihoods. Their participation is essential to ensure that conservation measures are relevant, acceptable, and effective. Moreover, involving local communities in the MPA's management can help build their capacity for conservation and strengthen their sense of ownership and responsibility for the MPA's sustainability.

To achieve sustainable and inclusive management of the Grand-Bereby MPA, there is a need for a multi-stakeholder approach that involves the government, local communities, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. The approach should integrate conservation and development objectives, build partnerships and collaborations, and address the root causes of biodiversity loss, such as poverty, lack of alternative livelihoods, and unsustainable practices.

Through sustainable and inclusive management, the Grand-Bereby MPA can contribute to biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and poverty reduction in the region. It can also serve as a model for other MPAs and conservation areas in Cote d'Ivoire and the broader West African region.

2.1. Global significance

Grand-Bereby is a forested region. Most people there make money from farming. They grow things like rubber, oil palm, cocoa, and coffee. Big companies like Palmeraies de la Cote d'Ivoire (PALMCI) and Societe des caoutchoucs de Grand-Bereby (SOGB) have big farms there[3]. Because of these big farms, many trees have been cut down. People call this place the "cocoa loop" because it's known for growing cocoa. For example, the company SOGB has a farm that is as big as 35,000 soccer fields. This shows how big farming is here, but it also hurts the land. Some people, especially those not originally from there, are going into protected areas and cutting down trees. This is bad for many plants, like *Iodes liberica*, *Bowringia discolor*, *Diopyros tricolor*, *Sphenocentrum jollyanum*, *Cleidion gabonicum*, *Hibiscus comoensis*, and *Drypetes laciniata*[4].

There was a study about the environment in Grand-Bereby. The study found many animals that need protection. These include birds, reptiles like the Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*), forest crocodile

(*Osteolaemus tetraspis*), and long-snouted crocodile (*Crocodylus cataphractus*)[5]. It also found big sea animals like the sperm whale (*Physeter catodon*) and fin whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*). There are also sea turtles like the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). Sadly, turtle eggs on the beaches are often taken by animals like crabs and also by people. People, especially women and kids, take these eggs to sell or eat them.

The marine protected area of Grand Bereby covers an area of 2,600 km² and is recognized as particularly important for the conservation of biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire. The protected area is home to over 20 species of sharks and rays, including hammerheads, manta rays, and guitarfish, which are considered the world's most threatened marine fish. The protection of these species is not only essential for the health of the marine ecosystem but also has implications for food security and economic development.

The conservation of the ecosystems and biodiversity of Grand Bereby is essential not only for its intrinsic value but also for its role in supporting human well-being. The coastal zone is an important source of livelihood for local communities, providing opportunities for fishing, tourism, and other economic activities[6]. The protection of these resources can help ensure the long-term sustainability of these activities and support the well-being of local communities. The ecosystems of Grand Bereby have global significance, as they play a role in regulating the Earth's climate and providing important ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, and nutrient cycling. The protection of these ecosystems can have a positive impact on global efforts to address climate change and promote sustainable development. The ecosystems and biodiversity of Grand Bereby are of global significance, and their conservation is essential for both local well-being and global sustainability.

Threats, root causes and barrier analysis

The threats facing coastal and marine biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire, and specifically in Grand Bereby, are multifaceted and complex. Anthropogenic activities, including coastal habitat loss and degradation, poaching of marine wildlife species, unsustainable fishing practices, coastal water pollution, untreated wastewater, coastal flooding and erosion, and the impacts of climate change, all contribute to the degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems in the region[7]. The root causes of these threats can be attributed to a range of factors, including population growth, unsustainable resource exploitation, inadequate infrastructure and regulations, and inadequate government policies and enforcement. Addressing these issues and achieving sustainable outcomes requires overcoming a number of barriers, including a lack of funding and resources, inadequate public awareness, and conflicting interests among stakeholders[8].

Threats

Human activities have contributed significantly to the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, leading to the loss of biodiversity and the decline of important ecosystem services. These activities include habitat destruction, pollution, unsustainable fishing practices, coastal development, and climate change. Anthropogenic threats to coastal and marine biodiversity have also impacted endangered, threatened, and protected species that rely on these ecosystems for survival. The loss of these species not only affects the ecological balance but also has economic and cultural implications[9]. It is therefore essential to understand these threats and implement conservation measures to mitigate their impact on coastal and marine biodiversity.

Coastal Habitat Loss and Degradation: The coastal habitats of Grand Bereby and the wider Cote d'Ivoire are facing significant threats due to habitat loss and degradation, particularly in mangrove and beach ecosystems, as well as in moist forests inland (See Figure 4). These habitats are essential for the basic human needs of food, fuel, and shelter, and their degradation has significant socio-economic consequences. Mangroves are particularly affected by traditional uses such as poles for the building industry, fuel wood, and the local market, leading to their depletion. Additionally, the aesthetic value of these habitats, which is critical for tourism, is lost when they become degraded.

[1] This was identified in the baseline Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) analysis during the project development (see attached METT Tracking Tool).

[2] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[3] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[4] Ibid: N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023).

[5] Ibid: N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023).

[6] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[7] Ibid: N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023).

[8] Abe, Jacques (2023): *Institutional analysis, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

[9] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

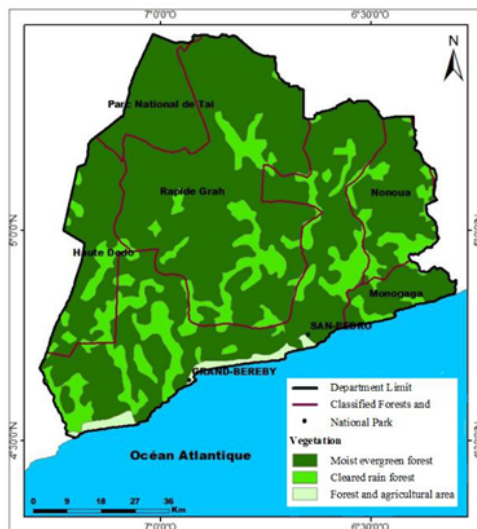


Figure 4. Vegetation of the Department of San-Pedro (Adapted from SODEFOR and reported by Nguessan (2023)).

The coastal area of Cote d'Ivoire is home to nearly 7.5 million people, approximately 30% of the country's population, and accounts for around 80% of its economic activity. The distribution of economic activities by population in the coastal regions of C?te d'Ivoire is as follows: Agriculture: 55% of the population; Fishing: 1% of the population; Tourism: 10% of the population. The remaining 34% of the population is employed in a variety of other sectors, such as manufacturing, construction, and services. The increasing number of people, combined with activities such as forestry, plantations, factories, tourism, and fishing, has led to deforestation, industrial and domestic waste dumping, agricultural runoff, and the unsustainable management of solid and liquid waste. The rapid, uncontrolled urban development along the coast has resulted in further degradation of coastal ecosystems, as waste management systems were not designed to handle the current levels of growth.

The poor management of solid waste and household refuse has put immense pressure on coastal ecosystems and resulted in their rapid degradation. This has significant consequences for both the biodiversity and the local communities that depend on these habitats for their livelihoods. It is imperative to address these threats and prioritize the restoration and sustainable management of the coastal habitats of Grand Bereby and Cote d'Ivoire as a whole.

Poaching of marine wildlife species: The poaching of marine wildlife species is a major threat to the biodiversity and conservation efforts in the coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, including Grand Bereby. The demand for illegally traded wildlife products, such as marine turtles, manatees, and various species of dolphins, crocodiles, and wetland birds, has led to the devastating decline of these species[1] and [2]. This problem is not limited to Cote d'Ivoire alone but is a growing concern in West Africa and beyond.

The decline in fisheries resources, combined with increasing human populations and land-based developments, has led to the displacement of local communities from their traditional food sources. As a result, new forms of meat consumption have emerged, including the illegal hunting of marine wildlife species for local and international trade. This trend is having a severe impact on aquatic mammal, reptile, and avian biodiversity, as noted in the 2017 Scoping Study on Addressing Illegal Harvesting of Aquatic Endangered, Threatened or Protected (ETP) Species for Consumption and Trade funded by the USAID West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WA BiCC) Program[3].

The poaching of marine wildlife species is not limited to intentional hunting. Marine turtles, for example, often get entangled in nets used for fishing and end up as bycatch. The increasing evidence of active hunting and thriving local markets for smoked turtle meat or turtle eggs is also a major concern. Habitat degradation caused by the economic development of the coastal area, as well as predation of nests by wild dogs and pigs, pose additional threats to the survival of marine turtles.

Addressing the issue of poaching of marine wildlife species requires a collaborative effort between the government, local communities, and non-governmental organizations to implement effective conservation measures. This can include strengthening law enforcement, raising awareness about the importance of protecting wildlife, and promoting alternative livelihoods for local communities.

Unsustainable Fishing: Unsustainable fishing practices pose a significant threat to the marine biodiversity and ecosystems of Grand Bereby. With the importance of fisheries for the local livelihoods, the declining fish stocks could have severe consequences for the community. The industrial fishing sector, which includes about 38 ships, operates on the continental shelf near the ports of Abidjan and San Pedro, and is responsible for the catch of various fish species such as tuna, sardines, and shrimp. However, the fish stocks are in decline due to several factors, including overfishing, illegal and unregulated fishing, and coastal degradation.

Overfishing is a severe problem in Grand Bereby, with some fish stocks being fished beyond their sustainable limits. The unregulated and illegal fishing practices exacerbate this problem, as fishers use destructive techniques such as dynamite fishing and the use of fine mesh nets. These practices harm not only the target species but also the non-target species, including juvenile fish and other marine life, causing further damage to the ecosystem.

Furthermore, the degradation of the coastal zone through pollution and habitat destruction is a significant contributor to the declining fish stocks. The pollution of the water bodies due to industrial, domestic, and agricultural waste discharge causes harm to fish, and other marine species. The destruction of habitats, such as mangroves and seagrass beds, which serve as breeding grounds and nurseries for fish species, also contributes to the decline in fish populations.

The lack of effective management and monitoring of the fisheries sector exacerbates the challenges of unsustainable fishing practices. This is due to inadequate regulation and enforcement of existing laws and regulations, as well as limited resources to support conservation efforts. The absence of awareness among the local communities on the importance of sustainable fishing practices is also a significant contributor to the problem.

The unsustainable fishing practices threaten the livelihoods of local communities who rely on fisheries for food and income. If unchecked, the continued depletion of fish stocks will have long-lasting impacts on the environment and the community. Therefore, sustainable fishing practices must be implemented to mitigate the threats posed by overfishing, illegal fishing, and the degradation of coastal habitats.

Coastal area Water Pollution: In addition to poor water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) practices, industrial and agricultural activities contribute to the degradation of water resources in coastal areas. Industrial activities such as oil and gas exploration, transportation, and production, as well as mining, release various pollutants into water bodies, including heavy metals and hydrocarbons[4]. These pollutants not only harm aquatic life but also pose health risks to humans who consume contaminated seafood or use polluted water for daily activities.

Agricultural activities such as pesticide and fertilizer use also contribute to water pollution. Runoff from agricultural fields can carry these pollutants into water bodies, leading to eutrophication and harmful algal blooms, which can have severe impacts on marine ecosystems and human health[5].

Furthermore, the rapid expansion of urban and peri-urban areas along the coast has led to inadequate infrastructure for wastewater treatment and disposal, resulting in the discharge of untreated sewage into coastal waters. This further exacerbates the problem of water pollution and threatens the health and wellbeing of coastal communities.

Water pollution in coastal areas not only has significant environmental impacts but also affects the livelihoods of coastal communities, particularly those who rely on fishing and tourism. The degradation

of water quality can lead to the loss of marine biodiversity and reduced fish populations, thereby affecting the food security and economic wellbeing of coastal communities.

Untreated Waste-water in the Coastal area: Untreated wastewater in the coastal area of Grand Bereby and Cote d'Ivoire in general is a significant environmental challenge that poses a threat to both human health and marine biodiversity[6]. The release of domestic, agricultural, and industrial wastewater into the environment without proper treatment can lead to pollution, negatively impacting the marine environment's carrying capacity[7]. The discharge of untreated wastewater into water bodies can lead to the loss of habitat and species, posing risks to human health through water-borne diseases.

The 2019 study by the World Bank revealed that the cost of untreated domestic wastewater in Cote d'Ivoire was estimated at US\$35 in 2017[8]. This cost does not include the negative impact on the marine environment and human health caused by the pollution. The total cost of water degradation, including water-borne diseases and untreated wastewater, was estimated at 1.2% of Cote d'Ivoire's GDP, which amounts to about US\$485 million.

The lack of proper infrastructure and regulations for wastewater management is one of the major contributors to the issue of untreated wastewater. Wastewater treatment facilities are often inadequate, and regulations are poorly enforced. This situation results in untreated wastewater being directly discharged into water bodies, leading to environmental degradation and posing health risks to both humans and wildlife.

In addressing this challenge, there is a need for the government to invest in proper wastewater management infrastructure and to enforce regulations to ensure that domestic, agricultural, and industrial wastewater is treated before being discharged into the environment. Public education and awareness campaigns are also necessary to encourage responsible waste disposal practices among local communities.

Coastal flooding and erosion: Coastal flooding and erosion are significant threats to Grand Bereby and other coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire[9]. These issues account for over 60% of the total cost of degradation in the region. The country is highly vulnerable to floods, with a frequency that has increased in the past 50 years and is expected to continue rising in the future. The coastal areas are also highly exposed to erosion due to factors such as higher population growth and migration, concentration of economic activity, and sea level rise.

Coastal erosion and flooding pose a significant threat to the livelihoods of the communities in Grand Bereby and Cote d'Ivoire in general. Erosion leads to the loss of land, which can impact agricultural productivity, housing, and infrastructure. Loss of production and assets can lead to a reduction in income and employment opportunities, exacerbating poverty levels. Coastal flooding, on the other hand, can lead to the destruction of infrastructure, homes, and businesses, as well as pose a risk to human life. This can lead to displacement, loss of property and livelihoods, and the need for costly post-disaster recovery efforts. Therefore, it is critical to address coastal erosion and flooding through the implementation of sustainable coastal management practices and the protection of coastal ecosystems that act as natural barriers against such events.

The root causes of this issue are complex and include both natural and human factors. For example, sea level rise and changes in climate patterns exacerbate the problem, while human activities such as deforestation and land-use change can lead to increased soil erosion and sedimentation. To address these

challenges, a coordinated approach that involves both local communities and government authorities is necessary. Coastal erosion and flooding management plans should be developed and implemented to reduce the risks posed by these environmental threats.

Climate change: Climate change poses a significant threat to the coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, including Grand Bereby. The effects of climate change, including sea level rise, rainfall variability, and increasing temperatures, have triggered several hazards, such as flooding, erosion, and extreme weather events. A World Bank study on the Cost of Environmental Degradation (COED) in the coastal areas of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo reveals that these hazards are major challenges facing the West Africa coastal areas, and they lead to substantial economic damages amounting to over 4.9% of GDP in Cote d'Ivoire.

Coastal erosion and flooding are particularly significant concerns, with more than two-thirds of the Ivorian coastline already affected by erosion. The loss or degradation of mangroves, which serve as a natural barrier between the sea and land, exacerbates this problem. The loss of beaches, dunes, and mangroves that provide natural flood protection has worsened the impacts of floods from the sea, which engulf towns and villages during strong storms, leading to the loss of homes, businesses, and infrastructure. These hazards also threaten the country's economy, including major industrial facilities and infrastructures.

The effects of climate change are projected to worsen by 2050, with a predicted increase in temperatures of 2°C, variation in rainfall of -9% in May and +9% in October, and rising sea levels of 30 cm. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that climate change could reduce GDP by 2% to 4% across Africa by 2040 and by 10% to 25% by 2100, leading to losses in the agricultural sector, human capital, and infrastructure. The impact of climate change could also plunge more households into extreme poverty, with an estimated 2% to 6% more households in Cote d'Ivoire living in extreme poverty by 2030, in addition to the six million poor in the country today.

Root causes

Environmental and biodiversity management challenges facing Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby are complex and multifaceted. To effectively address these challenges, it is crucial to understand their root causes. One of the key root causes is the lack of a comprehensive and coordinated master plan for coastal resource management, leading to the degradation of critical ecosystems and biodiversity. Population pressure and migration also contribute to these challenges, as the Ivorian coastline hosts a significant portion of the country's population and economy, with accelerated urbanization leading to hazardous settlements and encroachment on natural assets. Land-based developments, including infrastructure construction, unplanned growth in coastal areas, and unsustainable land use practices, also have detrimental effects on the environment and biodiversity. Poor forest governance further exacerbates these challenges, as illegal logging and deforestation lead to the loss of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services. Addressing these root causes requires the implementation of effective policies and regulations, involvement of local communities in decision-making processes, and improved institutional capacities and enforcement mechanisms.

Lack of a master plan for Coastal resources management: The lack of a master plan for coastal resource management in Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby is a significant root cause of environmental and biodiversity management challenges. Despite the adoption of a land management policy in 1997, the

policy has not been fully implemented, which has had a negative impact on the preservation of critical forestry assets, such as mangroves. Mangroves are an essential component of the coastal ecosystem and play a vital role in protecting shorelines from erosion, filtering pollutants from runoff, and providing a nursery and feeding ground for numerous marine species. However, without proper management, mangroves are at risk of being destroyed by human activities such as logging and agricultural expansion.

Furthermore, the lack of a national land management policy and regional land management plan has resulted in spatial planning practices that lag behind ongoing growth, leading to hazardous settlements, encroachment of natural assets, and pollution. The absence of coordinated planning for coastal resource management has led to the unsustainable development of infrastructure and human settlements along the coast, without taking into consideration the impact on the environment and natural resources. This has led to the degradation of critical ecosystems, including the loss of mangroves, and has contributed to pollution, soil erosion, and coastal flooding.

It can be seen therefore that the absence of a comprehensive and coordinated plan for coastal resource management in Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby has contributed significantly to the degradation of the coastal ecosystem and the loss of biodiversity. Without proper management and planning, the protection of critical ecosystems and biodiversity is at risk, with significant implications for the livelihoods of coastal communities and the economy of the region.

Population pressure and migration: The population pressure and migration to the coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, particularly in Grand Bereby, is another root cause of environmental and biodiversity management challenges. The Ivorian coastline hosts a significant part of the country's population and economy, with Abidjan being one of the fastest-growing cities in West Africa. This rapid urbanization and population growth have resulted in increased demand for resources such as food, water, and land, leading to deforestation, degradation of habitats, and loss of biodiversity. Additionally, the influx of migrants from neighboring countries has further exacerbated these issues. The lack of proper planning and infrastructure to support this population growth has put significant pressure on natural resources, leading to unsustainable practices and a negative impact on the environment. Without effective management of population pressure and migration, the coastal ecosystems and biodiversity of Grand Bereby and Cote d'Ivoire are at risk of further degradation.

Land-based developments: Land-based developments such as the construction of infrastructure, human settlements, and unsustainable land use practices are major contributors to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss in Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby. The development of infrastructure such as the Autonomous port of Abidjan and dams on rivers has altered the natural formation of depositional features such as river deltas, alluvial fans, braided rivers, and beaches. These alterations have led to changes in water flow dynamics and pollution, which has had a negative impact on the coastal ecosystem. Settlements along the coast have also been a major contributor to land degradation, with many located on the edges of lagoons, which alters water flow dynamics and leads to deforestation and pollution of the lagoons. Unsustainable farming techniques, a growing demand for fuelwood and commercial timber, and the decline of natural forests have contributed to the loss of biodiversity, with coastal wetlands rapidly disappearing due to soil degradation and water pollution. Despite efforts to address land management issues through the adoption of the Rural Land Law in 1998, political instability and lack of resources have hindered its implementation, leaving many vulnerable to land grabbing and unsustainable land use practices. These issues pose significant threats to the well-being of rural communities and future

productivity, highlighting the need for comprehensive and coordinated land management policies and practices.

Poor forest governance: Poor forest governance is a systemic and major root cause of the environmental and biodiversity management challenges in Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby. The Forestry Department is responsible for managing forest resources in rural areas, but its institutional capacities are weak, and the department's overall governance is poor. A failure to involve local communities in forest management and decision-making processes is a key contributing factor. The relevant laws and regulations are unfamiliar to many individuals, making it challenging to enforce them effectively. Illegal logging and deforestation have become rampant, leading to a loss of critical biodiversity and ecosystem services. As a result, local communities are often marginalized and not adequately involved in decision-making processes related to forest management. This poor forest governance also undermines the socio-economic development of local communities, as forests are an essential source of livelihoods, particularly for vulnerable groups. The destruction of forests and the associated ecosystem services also exacerbate climate change impacts, as forests play a critical role in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, effective forest governance is critical in ensuring the sustainable use and management of forest resources and their associated ecosystem services.

Barriers

The marine protected area of Grand-Bereby is a critical ecosystem for biodiversity conservation in Cote d'Ivoire. However, there are significant challenges facing the sustainable and inclusive management of this area. These challenges are related to inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks, lack of awareness of socioeconomic opportunities related to sustainable/nature-based livelihoods, and insufficient knowledge and understanding of marine biodiversity and its ecological interactions among stakeholders[10]. These barriers undermine efforts to conserve marine biodiversity and ecosystem services and threaten the livelihoods of communities that rely on the resources of the coastal zone. In this section, we will explore each of these barriers in more detail and discuss how the current project will contribute to addressing them.

Barrier 1: Inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks and capacities to support the effective conservation of coastal habitats and marine wildlife.

Although there are legal instruments in place, such as the adopted Law No. 2017 - 378 of June 2, 2017 on the Planning, Protection and Coastal line integrated Management, overfishing, destruction of marine habitats, and poaching of marine wildlife species remain a serious concern, putting not only the marine resources but also the socio-economic well-being of coastal communities at risk. Despite efforts to strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable coastal communities and areas against climate change risks, there is still a need to establish regulatory frameworks and adequate institutional and technical capacities for the management of biodiversity resources and its habitats[11]. To address this barrier, the country benefited from a project under GEF 6 project titled "Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration and Conservation of Forests Landscapes and Biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire (SSATMARC-FOLAB)" (GEF ID 9366)[12]. One of the project outputs, 3.1.3, focuses on developing policy and regulatory frameworks for the conservation of specific threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as mangroves and endemic species, and piloting them at selected sites. This includes a policy review and recommendations to support policy reforms in the area of protected areas and biodiversity conservation.

However, there is still an urgent need to review and align policies and development planning across sectors to ensure the integration of up-to-date information on sustainable marine resource use, Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), marine corridors, biodiversity conservation, and economic development strategies[13]13. The lack of specific documents outlining standards or providing guidance in identifying key coastal and marine habitats for management or standardized monitoring protocols is also a concern. While the Protected Area Regulation is in place, the majority of legally protected areas in Cote d'Ivoire lack management plans, turning them into "paper parks"[14]14. Technical and institutional capacities within government institutions to formulate and implement policies to establish and manage MPAs remain limited due to insufficient staffing and lack of technical tools and systems. Investment is needed to build local capacities in MPA management, including strengthening collaboration among various governance levels, developing and implementing management plans, and resource mobilization. The institutional capacity will be based on the recommendations from the GEF 6 project, which plans to conduct assessments of coastal areas, including policies, institutional and legal reforms needed. Through these efforts, policy and regulatory actions can be taken to reverse the trend of the most critically and unsustainably exploited marine biodiversity stocks and protect their most vulnerable habitats in the Grand Bereby area.

In addition to inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks, technical and institutional capacities within government institutions to establish and manage marine protected areas (MPAs) also pose a significant barrier to the effective conservation of coastal habitats and marine wildlife in Cote d'Ivoire and Grand Bereby. Insufficient staffing, lack of technical tools and systems, and limited integration of scientific data and threats-based information into policies and action plans hinder the ability to make informed decisions and ensure marine biodiversity conservation in the face of ongoing and future threats. The lack of management plans for the majority of legally protected areas in the country has led to the conversion of many of these areas into "paper parks". To address this barrier, investments are needed to build local capacities in MPA management, including collaboration among various governance levels, development and implementation of management plans, and resource mobilization. It is also essential to develop the capacity of managers and councils in financial planning and sustainable management of natural resources to ensure the environmental sustainability of economic development in the coastal marine area. The recommendations from the GEF 6 project will be used to build institutional capacity in this area.

The current project can contribute to addressing the barrier of inadequate policy and regulatory frameworks and capacities to support the effective conservation of coastal habitats and marine wildlife in several ways. Firstly, the project can support the review and alignment of policies and development planning across sectors and integrate up-to-date information on sustainable marine resource use, EBSAs, marine corridors, biodiversity conservation alongside economic development strategies in the Grand Bereby MPA. This can be achieved through the development of a comprehensive management plan that outlines the standards and provides guidance for identifying key coastal and marine habitats for management, including standardized monitoring protocols. Secondly, the project can contribute to strengthening technical and institutional capacities within government institutions to formulate and implement policies to establish and manage MPA. This can be achieved through capacity building activities for MPA managers and councils on financial planning, sustainable management of natural resources, and effective enforcement of policies and regulations. The project can also support the

development and use of technical tools and systems to enhance different management models and the integration of scientific data and threats based information into policies and action plans to ensure informed decision-making for marine wildlife biodiversity conservation.

Barrier 2: Lack of socioeconomic opportunities for nature-based livelihoods and sustainable financing for Marine Protected Areas.

The lack of basic socio-economic infrastructure and capacities to seize opportunities related to sustainable/nature-based livelihoods, with 3/4 of the villages concerned in the project area affected. This has a negative impact on the standard of living of the populations in the area. Despite heavy reliance on natural resources for livelihoods and economic development, there is a general lack of understanding among stakeholders about the importance of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. This lack of awareness often results in marine wildlife resource conservation being perceived as a constraint to economic growth, rather than an opportunity to improve sustainability. This perception is partly due to the lack of practical examples that demonstrate how sustainable marine resource use can deliver economic outcomes that are sustainable. There is also insufficient knowledge on the direct and indirect value of the marine environment, dependencies, and opportunities. Therefore, it is essential to develop and communicate a robust communication strategy to provide stakeholders with knowledge on the value of marine biodiversity and its habitats, ecosystem services, and lessons on best practices. This strategy can help improve the management of environmental governance and the upscaling of project results. Furthermore, there is a challenge of financial sustainability of the Protected Area. While the establishment and initial management of MPAs often benefit from external funding sources, such as international grants or donor contributions, the long-term operational costs, including monitoring, enforcement, and community engagement activities, require a consistent and sustainable source of funding. Without a clear financial sustainability plan, the MPA risks facing budget shortfalls, which can compromise its management effectiveness and conservation goals

To overcome this barrier, investments are needed to build technical and financial capacities to seize opportunities related to sustainable/nature-based livelihoods. Capacity building can include training programs and workshops for local communities on sustainable marine resource use, ecotourism, and other nature-based livelihood opportunities. These programs can provide information on the potential benefits of sustainable marine resource use, such as improved food security, increased income, and enhanced resilience to climate change. Additionally, it is essential to develop and implement policies that promote sustainable/nature-based livelihoods and ensure that they are integrated into broader economic development strategies. This can involve collaboration with government agencies, civil society organizations, and the private sector to identify and implement sustainable/nature-based livelihood opportunities that benefit local communities while also contributing to the conservation of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The current project will contribute to addressing this barrier by focusing on awareness-raising and capacity-building activities targeted at the rural communities in the Grand-Bereby area. This will include providing training on sustainable/nature-based livelihoods, developing demonstration sites to showcase the benefits of sustainable marine resource use, and facilitating access to financial resources and markets for sustainable livelihoods. The project will also work to build the capacity of local organizations and institutions to support sustainable/nature-based livelihoods and to promote the value of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. This will include training on sustainable management practices,

building networks and partnerships with relevant stakeholders, and supporting the development of community-based ecotourism initiatives. Through these efforts, the project will help to shift the perception of marine wildlife resource conservation from being seen as a constraint to economic growth to being recognized as an opportunity to improve sustainability and socio-economic development in the Grand-Bereby area.

Barrier 3: Weak knowledge management and poor understanding among stakeholders on the ecological interactions in the marine and coastal habitats

Insufficient of knowledge and understanding of marine biodiversity and its ecological interactions among stakeholders is a critical challenge facing effective marine protected area and ecosystem management[15]⁵. This lack of understanding hinders the development of effective management strategies and makes it difficult to prioritize conservation efforts. Without reliable data and adequate information sharing, it is impossible to identify the specific threats facing marine ecosystems and prioritize interventions that can help mitigate these threats. To address this, there is an urgent need to establish a research program that can fill the knowledge gaps related to the biology, ecology, and distribution of biodiversity species occurring on the Grand Bereby continental shelf.

The long-term trends of species population, accurate identification of feeding grounds, abundance, and life stages are also critical information that needs to be gathered to feed global databases and prioritize conservation efforts. For instance, knowing the specific feeding grounds of marine species can inform management strategies that can help protect these areas and ensure that the species have adequate food to survive. Similarly, understanding the abundance and life stages of marine species can inform efforts to protect their breeding grounds and ensure the survival of their young.

Furthermore, gathering reliable data and sharing information on marine biodiversity can help to address issues related to coastal pollution, habitat destruction, and overfishing. It is only by understanding the ecological interactions in the marine and coastal habitats that stakeholders can appreciate the importance of marine biodiversity and the need for sustainable use of resources. This information can inform policymaking and decision-making at all levels, from local communities to government agencies, leading to the development of more effective marine protected area and ecosystem management strategies[16]¹⁶.

The current project will play a vital role in addressing this barrier. The project will prioritize the development of a robust knowledge management system that promotes data sharing and enhances knowledge and understanding of the marine and coastal habitats. It will support the development of data management systems and work towards capacity building for local communities and stakeholders to improve their understanding of marine biodiversity and the ecological interactions in the marine and coastal habitats. By doing so, the project will improve stakeholders' appreciation of the importance of biodiversity and the need for sustainable resource use while contributing to a more informed approach to decision-making in the coastal zone. Ultimately, this will lead to more effective conservation efforts, ensuring the protection and preservation of the rich marine biodiversity of the Grand Bereby area.

2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects

Created by Decree No. 2002-359 of 24 July 2002, the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) aims to preserve and enhance a representative sample of the national biological diversity, and to maintain ecological processes in protected areas in a sustainable manner. This objective stems from the Framework Programme for the Management of Protected Areas (PCGAP) identified in 1996 following a diagnostic assessment of the National Parks and Nature Reserves sector of C?te d'Ivoire. The project is in the framework of the Cote d'Ivoire effort to expand its Protected Areas coverage particularly with inclusion of Marine Protected Area which is poorly represented in the national Network. As part of the National Protected Areas Network, the project will benefit from the national investments in terms of OIPR staff role in management of protected areas, but also will benefit from the national budget line annually mobilised to support the effective management of PA through supporting implementation of PA Management Plans. These national supports through OIPR will represent important cofinancing element for the project.

The current project builds also on a number of baseline initiatives being undertaken in the country^[17]¹⁷. These will include:

The West Africa Coastal Areas (WACA) and Fonds Fran?ais pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM in French for French Fund for the Global Environment) project on "Soft solutions to counter coastal erosion in West Africa" aims to combat coastal erosion associated with climate change and increasing urbanization along the coasts of Togo, Benin, and Senegal through nature-based solutions. On the other hand, the Grand Bereby project focuses on strengthening the sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby in Cote d'Ivoire. Both projects share a focus on effective coastal zone management that involves sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem-based approaches. The WACA/FFEM project's experiences and lessons on the implementation of coastal zone management protocols can be useful in informing the Grand Bereby project, especially in the context of climate change and urbanization along the coasts. This connection between the two projects highlights the importance of sharing best practices and collaborating on efforts towards sustainable coastal management in West Africa.

The Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission for C?te d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Liberia - Program for Fisheries Governance in West Africa (CECAF-PESCAO^[18]¹⁸) project has a connection with the Grand Bereby project in terms of their shared focus on the sustainable use and management of marine resources in the West African region. While the CECAF-PESCAO project aims to improve regional governance of marine resources in the CECAF area, which includes the Fisheries Committee for the West Central Gulf of Guinea (FCWC) countries, the Grand Bereby project focuses on strengthening the sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby in Cote d'Ivoire. Both projects recognize the importance of effective management of marine resources to promote sustainable fisheries, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. The experiences and best practices developed under the CECAF-PESCAO project can be shared with the Grand Bereby project to inform the development of sustainable fisheries management strategies and the promotion of ecosystem-based approaches. Collaboration between the two projects can help to ensure effective knowledge sharing and capacity building for sustainable management of marine resources in the region.

The ongoing *Management of Transboundary Fisheries Resources of the West African Small Coast (GREPPAO[19]19)* project funded by PESCAO and the European Union aims to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, food security, and poverty reduction in West Africa by improving the contribution of small pelagic transboundary fisheries. The Grand Bereby project also seeks to strengthen sustainable management of the marine protected area and increase economic benefits from sustainable use of natural resources. While the GREPPAO project focuses on improving the contribution of small pelagic fisheries to food security and increasing the added value created in the fisheries sector, the Grand Bereby project aims to strengthen the sustainable management of marine resources and increase the economic benefits derived from them. There is potential for collaboration between the two projects in terms of sharing knowledge and experiences, especially regarding sustainable fisheries management and transboundary fisheries management.

The EU Mangrove Project, also known as "*Management of Mangrove Forests from Senegal to Benin (PAPBio CI Mangroves)*", aims to protect mangroves in several West African countries including Cote d'Ivoire. The project is jointly implemented by the IUCN, the Wetlands International Africa, and the 5Deltas collective and has received 9.9 million funding from the European Union. Its goal- is to enhance the management of both protected areas and unprotected mangrove sites by strengthening the linkages between governance and production systems with mangrove conservation structures, with the aim of promoting integrated protection of mangrove diversity and ecosystems in the region. The project is aligned with the objectives of the Grand Bereby project in terms of promoting sustainable management of natural resources, including mangroves, and enhancing resilience to climate change. As such, the two projects can collaborate in sharing lessons and experiences gained in the implementation of coastal zone management protocols and other relevant activities.

The *FishGov* project is a long-term initiative that will run from 2021 to 2025, with a focus on three strategic actions aimed at promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices, implementing policy frameworks, and strengthening the African voice in global fisheries and aquaculture issues. The project will work in collaboration with AU institutions such as AUDA-NEPAD, and AU-IBAR will manage and coordinate the various actions. The project aims to support evidence-based decision making through improved knowledge and effective consultation, maintain coherent implementation of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy (PFRS) for Fisheries and Aquaculture, and strengthen the African voice on fisheries and aquaculture issues in international forums. The Grand Bereby project also focuses on sustainable fisheries and marine conservation, making the FishGov project a useful collaborator in achieving the goals of the Grand Bereby project, particularly in terms of promoting cross-sectoral approaches and strengthening policy frameworks.

The *WACA ResIP-CCA World Bank Investment Project (2018-2023)* is an ongoing initiative that aims to enhance the resilience of coastal communities and areas in Western Africa against the adverse effects of climate change. The project is centered on reinforcing regional integration, strengthening the institutional and policy framework, strengthening social and physical investments at the national level, and facilitating national coordination between Cote d'Ivoire, Benin, Togo, Mauritania, Senegal, and Sao Tome & Principe. The project's main focus is to support policy and protocols for effective coastal zone management to ensure compliance with national and regional regulations and to facilitate appropriate investment in this area. The WACA ResIP-CCA project targets the most vulnerable coastal communities

and areas based on thorough technical analysis and stakeholder engagement. The Grand Bereby project also aims to strengthen the sustainable management of the marine protected area and seascapes, which includes coastal zones, highlighting the importance of sustainable coastal zone management in enhancing the resilience of coastal communities and areas against climate change. The lessons learned from the WACA ResIP-CCA project can be used to inform the Grand Bereby project's coastal zone management protocols to ensure that they are efficient and effective in enhancing coastal resilience.

In addition to the above mentioned initiative, the project will coordinate, build synergy and learn from the national, regional and Global GEF projects which have important linkage with the current projects. These GEF supported projects include:

The IUCN Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea for the implementation of Payment for Ecosystem Services and Coastal Nature-based Solutions project (2021-2024) GEFID 10875, has a budget of USD 3,000,000. The project aims to establish a regional mechanism for the implementation of nature-based solutions for habitat restoration and maintenance using payment for ecosystem services in Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana. The project has several outcomes, including the improvement of mapping and management of coastal and marine areas through the establishment of a regional marine spatial planning (MSP) framework to enhance cooperation and support partnerships for financing. The project also seeks to improve understanding of the current state of ecosystems in the region and establish a payment for ecosystem services (PES) system to increase the monetary contribution of beneficiaries for their use of ecosystem services, as well as to improve regional cooperation and understanding of PES. Additionally, the project aims to improve the organization of regional integrated ecosystem services and management of ecologically important ecosystems for the provision of ecosystem services through nature-based solutions (NBS). The project also intends to develop a strategy for improved regional coordination for scaling up of NBS. The Grand Bereby project shares a similar focus on the management of coastal and marine areas through sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem-based approaches. The Using Marine Spatial Planning in the Gulf of Guinea project's focus on improving regional coordination and management of ecologically important ecosystems for the provision of ecosystem services through nature-based solutions can inform the Grand Bereby project on the implementation of coastal zone management protocols. The projects can also potentially collaborate in terms of sharing knowledge and experiences on marine spatial planning and nature-based solutions, contributing to a more sustainable and inclusive management of marine protected areas and coastal zones in the region.

Strengthening of the Enabling Environment, Ecosystem-based Management and Governance to Support Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME). This is a UNEP project with GEFID 9911. The objectives of this project are: (i) Strengthening of the enabling environment, ecosystem-based management and governance to support implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem, (ii) strengthening of fisheries governance and management in an ecosystem context, to the assessments, stakeholder and inter-ministerial consultations, (iii) hot spot analysis of pollution in the GCLME and private sector mobilization. Findings relevant to this new project will be capitalized and used in the development and implementation of the MPA management and business plans.

The Coastal Fisheries Initiative (CFI)/ Child project 2 (2017-2021, Revised project end date: 10 May 2022) which is under request for another phase: Delivering sustainable environmental, social and

economic benefits in West Africa (GCP/RAF/837/GFF), implemented by FAO in collaboration with UNEP: It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), bringing together United Nations agencies and international conservation organizations at the forefront of efforts to strengthen fisheries management and conserve the marine biodiversity in coastal areas through better governance and strengthening of the seafood value chain. The CFI aims to expand access to practices that ensure environmental, social, and economic sustainability through good governance and innovation in artisanal fisheries in three West African countries: Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, and Cabo Verde. The CFI in Cote d'Ivoire is also introducing women to international systems such as the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management (EAF), the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines) so that they can enjoy greater autonomy.

Lessons learned from baseline projects

The table below synthesizes key learnings from a range of conservation projects implemented in Cote d'Ivoire and the broader West African region. By juxtaposing general conservation principles with specific insights from these projects, the table offers a comprehensive overview that can guide future initiatives. This holistic perspective is essential for stakeholders aiming to design and implement effective conservation strategies that are both sustainable and inclusive. Whether it's the importance of gender-sensitive approaches or the need for integrated management, these lessons underscore the multifaceted nature of conservation efforts and the importance of a well-rounded approach.

Lesson Learned	Description	Relevant Project(s)	Key Lessons Learned
Stakeholder Engagement	Engaging diverse stakeholder groups, including both men and women, is crucial for the success of conservation agreements.	Gulf of Guinea, Integrated Management of Protected Areas, GIAMAA	Importance of regional cooperation and partnerships for financing.
Integrated Management	Combining terrestrial, marine, and coastal conservation efforts can lead to more holistic and effective outcomes.	Integrated Management of Protected Areas, Enhancing Marine Management	Value of marine spatial planning for effective coastal and marine area management.
Gender-Sensitive Approaches	Gender considerations are essential for inclusive conservation strategies, ensuring that both men and women benefit from and contribute to conservation efforts.	Gulf of Guinea, Coastal Fisheries Initiative	Building capacity for transboundary fisheries, biodiversity conservation, and pollution reduction is crucial.
Alternative Livelihoods	Providing communities with alternative, sustainable livelihood options can reduce pressures on protected areas and enhance conservation outcomes.	WABICC, Coastal Fisheries Initiative	Nature-based solutions are effective in combating coastal erosion.
Knowledge Management	Sharing knowledge products, best practices, and monitoring frameworks can facilitate the replication of successful conservation approaches.	Gulf of Guinea, Integrated Management of Protected Areas	Addressing climate change and urbanization challenges requires integrated coastal management strategies.

Lesson Learned	Description	Relevant Project(s)	Key Lessons Learned
Ecosystem-Based Management	Approaches that consider the entire ecosystem, including its interrelated components, are more effective than isolated interventions.	Strengthened Environmental Management Information System, Enhancing Marine Management	Regional governance of marine resources is essential for sustainable fisheries.
Sustainable Financing	Establishing sustainable financing mechanisms, such as endowment funds or REDD+ financing, is crucial for the long-term success of conservation projects.	KfW Support to Protected Areas, SSATMARC-FOLAB	Coordinated national fisheries policies can lead to better resource management.
Regional Collaboration	Collaborative efforts across regions or countries can lead to more integrated conservation strategies and shared resources.	PESCAO, WACA Resilience Investment	Transboundary fisheries require coordinated management strategies.
Climate Resilience	Conservation efforts should incorporate strategies to improve the resilience of ecosystems to climate change and other environmental pressures.	WABICC, WACA Resilience Investment	Integrated protection of mangrove diversity and ecosystems is crucial.
Policy and Regulatory Frameworks	Strengthening policy and regulatory frameworks is essential for effective conservation and sustainable resource management.	Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem, PESCAO	Policy frameworks are essential for promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.

In general, the lessons learned can be grouped into six categories:

1. *Regional Collaboration:* Many projects emphasize the importance of regional collaboration and partnerships. This is crucial for the Grand Bereby project, especially given its location within a larger transboundary ecosystem.
2. *Integrated Coastal Management:* Effective coastal management requires an integrated approach that considers various factors, including climate change, urbanization, and ecosystem conservation.
3. *Nature-Based Solutions:* Projects like the WACA/FFEM highlight the effectiveness of nature-based solutions in addressing coastal challenges. The Grand Bereby project can benefit from implementing similar strategies.
4. *Stakeholder Engagement:* Engaging various stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, and international partners, is crucial for the successful implementation of conservation strategies.
5. *Policy Frameworks:* Projects like FishGov emphasize the importance of policy frameworks in promoting sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices. The Grand Bereby project can benefit from strengthening its policy frameworks and ensuring compliance with national and regional regulations.

6. *Gender Sensitivity*: Given the user's profile as a gender specialist, it's essential to ensure that all strategies and interventions are gender-sensitive, promoting inclusivity and addressing the unique needs and concerns of both men and women in the community.

3) The proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project

Project goal and objective

The objective of the project is: "To increase the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA)".

This means enhancing the ability of the MPA to achieve its conservation goals and protect the biodiversity of the area. This objective recognizes that marine protected areas are important tools for conserving marine ecosystems, and that effective management is necessary to ensure that they are able to meet their conservation objectives. By improving the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby MPA, the project aims to ensure the long-term conservation of the marine biodiversity in the area. To operationalize this objective, the project has identified specific goals that align with the objective. These goals include enhancing the capacity of relevant stakeholders to manage the MPA, developing and implementing alternative livelihood options that reduce pressure on the MPA, establishing a functional monitoring and evaluation system, and developing and disseminating gender-sensitive knowledge products to facilitate the scaling up and replication of conservation and sustainable management practices in the region.

Theory of change

The theory of change for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) project (in the figure below) is based on the premise that sustainable management of the MPA can be achieved through increased management effectiveness, community engagement, and alternative livelihood options. The theory of change outlines the pathway of how the project will achieve its overall objective of increasing the management effectiveness of the MPA.

Inputs and Activities: With the support of donor funding, technical expertise, and robust stakeholder collaboration (including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities), the project will embark on a range of activities. A gender-sensitive feasibility study will be initiated, exploring the valorization of the Grand-Bereby marine landscape. Identifying and implementing alternative income-generating activities will help alleviate pressures on marine resources. Alongside, gender-sensitive knowledge products will be developed, disseminated, and a monitoring protocol for the Grand-Bereby MPA will be established. Further, a comprehensive Project Monitoring and Evaluation System will be set up, emphasizing inclusivity for both men and women. Capacity building activities for stakeholders will underpin all of these processes.

Barriers: To realize the project's objectives, certain barriers need to be overcome. The existing policy and regulatory frameworks might not be adequate to support conservation. There's also a prevalent lack of awareness about socioeconomic opportunities related to sustainable/nature-based livelihoods. Additionally, a comprehensive understanding of the marine and coastal habitats amongst stakeholders is deficient.

Intermediate Outcomes:

1. Development of a gender-sensitive regulatory framework for Grand-Bereby MPA.
2. Increased opportunities for both men and women in alternative livelihoods to reduce pressures on marine resources.
3. Strengthened capacities for stakeholders in managing and monitoring the Grand-Bereby MPA and its surroundings.

Ultimate Outcomes: The implementation of these activities and overcoming the barriers will lead to the following:

1. Establishment of a gender-sensitive institutional and regulatory framework for the Grand-Béréby MPA.
2. Reduction of pressure on the Grand-Béréby MPA through gender-inclusive alternative livelihood options.
3. Boosted stakeholder capacities, for both men and women, to manage and monitor the Grand-Béréby MPA.

Environmental and Societal Outcomes: On the environmental front, there'll be improved conservation and sustainable resource utilization. Societally, local communities will witness reduced poverty levels and enhanced well-being.

Impact: The holistic approach of the project will result in improved management of the Grand-Béréby MPA. The enhanced conservation and sustainable use of resources will lead to increased economic, social, and environmental benefits for the community, aligning with national and international targets for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Goal: The overarching goal is to refine the management of the Grand-Béréby MPA and encourage sustainable use of coastal resources.

Assumptions and Justifications: For the Theory of Change to be realized, certain assumptions are held. It's assumed that adequate resources will be available throughout the project, strong stakeholder partnerships will be maintained, effective communication channels will be established, and gender-sensitive & participatory approaches will be upheld throughout.

Feedback Loops: Feedback mechanisms will be crucial to continuously inform and refine the project activities. Stakeholder consultations, regular reviews of the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System, and feedback from community engagement sessions will serve as continuous sources of information to iterate and enhance project strategies.

Through the engagement of local communities, the project will identify and implement alternative livelihood options that are climate-smart, gender-sensitive, and sustainable^[20]. This will reduce pressure on the MPA and contribute to poverty reduction in the surrounding communities. The project will also work to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of sustainable resource use and the benefits of MPA management among the communities.

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- [10] Abe, Jacques (2023): *Institutional analysis, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, C?te d?Ivoire.
- [11] Ibid: Abe, Jacques (2023).
- [12] <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/9366>
- [13] See: Convention on Biological diversity (2023) Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas - Special places in the world's oceans. <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>
- [14] The term ?paper park,? first defined in a 1999 WWF-World Bank report, refers to ?a legally established protected area where experts believe current protection activities are insufficient to halt degradation.? (Dudley and Stolton, 1999). In the marine context, a paper park is an established MPA that lacks sufficient management and enforcement to implement regulations and management plans and achieve conservation goals effectively (Slezak 2014). References: (i) Dudley, Nigel and Sue Stolton. ?Conversion of paper parks to effective management: developing a target.? 1999. (ii) Slezak, Michael. ?Conservation Report Reinforces Fears over ?Paper Parks??.? *New Scientist*, 13 Nov. 2014, www.newscientist.com/article/dn26552-conservation-report-reinforces-fears-over-paper-parks/#ixzz6pJEiiZIH.
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[18] The full meaning being stands for "Commission Sous-Regionale des Peches pour la Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, et Liberia - Programme de Gouvernance des Peches en Afrique de l'Ouest".

[19] In French it is: "Gestion des Ressources Halieutiques Transfrontali?res de la Petite C?te Africaine de l'Ouest."

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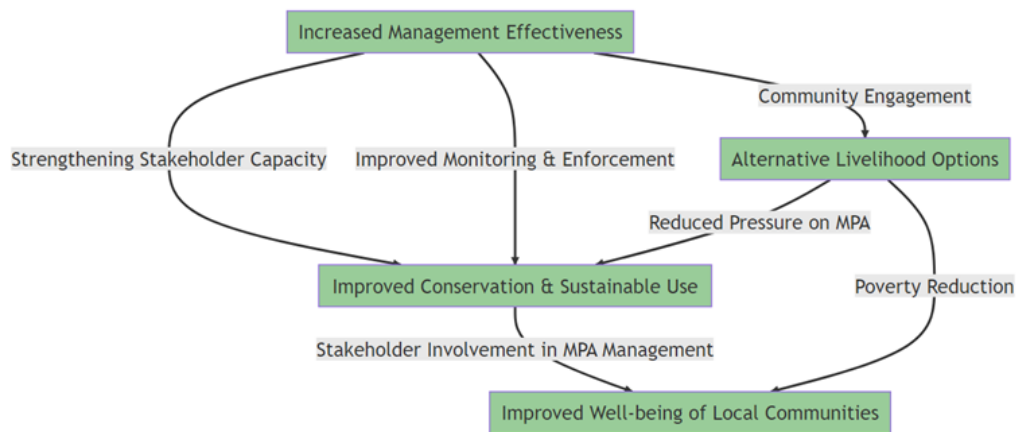
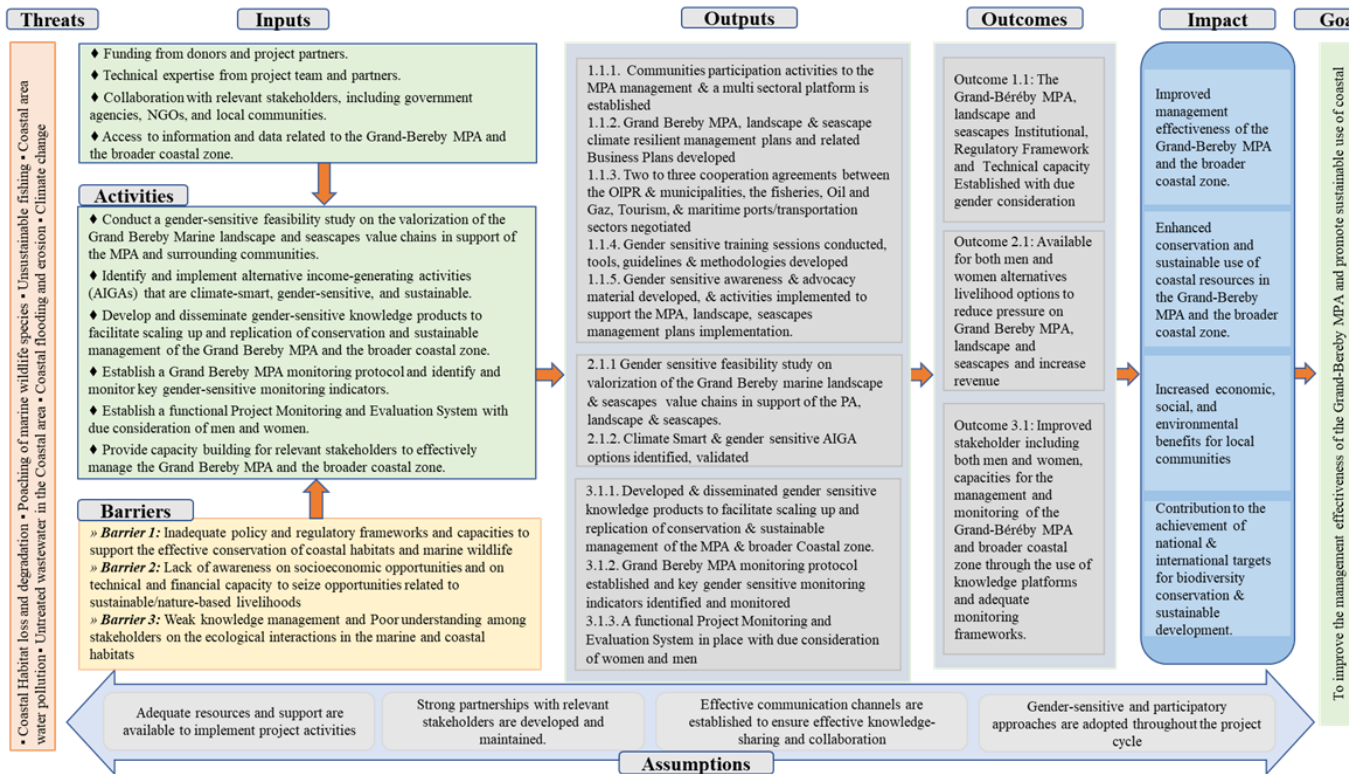


Figure 5. High-level Theory of Change Diagram for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA)

The theory of change also recognizes the importance of stakeholder involvement in MPA management. To this end, the project will engage stakeholders at various stages of the project cycle, including planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This will ensure that their perspectives and feedback are incorporated into the project design and implementation and that they take ownership of the project outcomes.

Overall, the theory of change outlines a pathway for achieving the project's objective of increasing the management effectiveness of the Grand Bereby MPA by building stakeholder capacity, implementing alternative livelihood options, and improving monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. The ultimate outcome of this approach is improved conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the area, poverty reduction, and improved well-being of local communities.



Theory of change for: "Strengthening the Sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby".

Scenario analysis

This project is designed to address the critical issues of marine biodiversity loss, coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, and unsustainable land use practices in Cote d'Ivoire.

Baseline scenario

The Grand Bereby region in Cote d'Ivoire is facing a multitude of environmental challenges that threaten its coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Understanding the current situation, or the baseline scenario, is crucial in identifying the issues that need to be addressed to promote environmental conservation and socio-economic growth in the region. The baseline scenario provides an essential foundation for measuring the impact and additionality of the Grand Bereby project following its implementation. In this context, the baseline scenario highlights the key challenges related to coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance and institutional capacity, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement.

Coastal degradation: The coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire are facing significant degradation due to a combination of human activities and climate change impacts. Urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion are causing pollution, habitat loss, and erosion, while climate change is causing sea-level rise, increased storm frequency and intensity, and changes in ocean currents, further exacerbating coastal degradation.

Loss of biodiversity: Coastal and marine ecosystems in Cote d'Ivoire harbor a rich biodiversity that is under threat from habitat destruction, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and climate change. Deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in mangrove areas, are leading to the loss of essential habitats for various species, while overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices are depleting fish stocks and affecting the marine food web.

Unsustainable land use practices: Agriculture is a major driver of environmental degradation in Cote d'Ivoire. Expanding agricultural lands, especially for cocoa and oil palm plantations, have led to deforestation, loss of habitat, and soil degradation. Inefficient agricultural practices, such as slash-and-burn agriculture and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, further contribute to land degradation and pollution of water bodies.

Weak governance and institutional capacity: The current institutional framework for environmental management in Cote d'Ivoire faces challenges related to coordination, enforcement, and monitoring of environmental policies and regulations. Limited technical and financial capacity hampers the effective implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives at various levels, from national to local.

Limited awareness and stakeholder engagement: The general public and local communities in Cote d'Ivoire have limited awareness of the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation. Consequently, stakeholder engagement and participation in conservation and sustainable development initiatives are often inadequate, reducing the effectiveness of such efforts.

The baseline scenario illustrates the current challenges faced in the Grand Bereby region, providing a foundation for the project to demonstrate additionality and measure its impact following implementation. By addressing coastal degradation, biodiversity loss, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement, the Grand Bereby project aims to contribute to the sustainable development and environmental conservation of the region.

Scenario without GEF funding

Without GEF funding, the Grand Bereby region would likely continue to experience increasing coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement. These factors will further compromise the region's

environmental integrity, socio-economic development, and resilience to climate change. The following are some of the potential consequences that may be expected without GEF investment:

Continued coastal degradation: Without the necessary funding and interventions, coastal degradation in Cote d'Ivoire will likely continue at an accelerated pace. Urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion will exacerbate pollution, habitat loss, and erosion, while climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, increased storm frequency and intensity, and changing ocean currents, will further contribute to the degradation of coastal areas. This could lead to loss of coastal infrastructure, decreased tourism, and increased vulnerability of coastal communities to natural disasters.

Further loss of biodiversity: The ongoing threats to coastal and marine ecosystems will result in the continued loss of biodiversity. Deforestation and forest degradation will lead to the disappearance of essential habitats, while overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and climate change will put additional pressure on the region's biodiversity. The decline in biodiversity will negatively affect ecosystem services, such as fisheries, climate regulation, and coastal protection, which are vital for the livelihoods and well-being of local communities.

Deterioration of land and water resources: If unsustainable land use practices continue, deforestation, habitat loss, and soil degradation will worsen, leading to decreased agricultural productivity and increased food insecurity. Water resources will be further degraded by pollution from agricultural runoff and other human activities, resulting in reduced water quality and availability for human consumption and ecosystem health.

Ineffective governance and institutional capacity: Without GEF funding, efforts to strengthen governance and institutional capacity for environmental management in Cote d'Ivoire may be limited. This could lead to weak enforcement of environmental policies and regulations, allowing for the continuation of unsustainable practices and further environmental degradation. Limited technical and financial capacity will hamper the implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives at all levels, from national to local.

Persistently low awareness and stakeholder engagement: In the absence of GEF-funded interventions, public awareness and stakeholder engagement in coastal and marine ecosystem conservation, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation may remain low. This could lead to a lack of support and participation in conservation and sustainable development efforts, reducing their overall effectiveness.

Women's limited participation and access to MPA resources and in decision making: Without the support of GEF funding, the gender disparities in the Grand Bereby region are likely to persist or even widen. Women's limited participation in Marine Protected Area (MPA) management, governance of natural resources, and their restricted access to the full benefits of MPA resources will remain a significant concern. Historically, women have played a crucial role in the sustainable management of marine resources, yet their contributions often go unrecognized, and they are underrepresented in decision-making processes. Without targeted interventions, women in Grand Bereby might continue to face barriers in accessing training, resources, and opportunities within the MPA. This lack of representation and access can lead to policies and practices that do not consider the unique needs and perspectives of women, further marginalizing them and potentially leading to unsustainable resource management practices. Moreover, the absence of women's voices in MPA governance can result in missed opportunities for innovative solutions, community engagement, and holistic resource management that considers the needs of all stakeholders. The continued sidelining of women not only hampers the socio-economic development of the region but also compromises the holistic and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources.

Scenario with GEF funding

With GEF funding, the Grand Bereby project will be able to address the challenges identified in the baseline scenario and contribute to the main objective of increasing the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA). The following outcomes can be expected with the implementation of the project:

Improved coastal and marine ecosystem management: GEF funding will support the establishment and effective management of the Grand-Béréby MPA, leading to the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine habitats. The project will also promote integrated coastal zone management approaches that consider the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change on coastal ecosystems.

Enhanced biodiversity conservation: The Grand Bereby project will implement measures to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity in the region. By supporting the management of the MPA and promoting sustainable practices, the project will help reduce habitat destruction, overexploitation of natural resources, and pollution, ultimately contributing to the preservation of critical ecosystems and species.

Promotion of sustainable land use practices: GEF funding will enable the project to promote sustainable agricultural practices that minimize deforestation, habitat loss, and soil degradation. This will involve supporting alternative livelihoods for local communities and raising awareness about the benefits of sustainable land management.

Strengthened governance and institutional capacity: The project will contribute to building the capacity of relevant institutions and stakeholders involved in the management of the Grand-Béréby MPA and its surrounding areas. This includes improving coordination, enforcement, and monitoring of environmental policies and regulations, as well as providing technical and financial support for the implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

Increased awareness and stakeholder engagement: GEF funding will support initiatives to raise public awareness about the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation. The project will also encourage active participation and engagement of local communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of the region's resources.

Improved benefits for women in project outcomes: The Gender Action Plan (GAP) has been designed to ensure this integration. Actions such as ensuring a minimum of 40% female representation in project governance bodies, regular consultations with women's groups, and tailored capacity-building initiatives for women are pivotal to the project's holistic approach. Moreover, the GAP emphasizes the importance of gender analysis, monitoring of gender outcomes, and the promotion of traditional knowledge from both genders. In the scenario with GEF funding, the GAP's actions will not only enhance the project's effectiveness but also ensure that both men and women in Grand Bereby benefit equitably from the project's interventions. Thus, the GAP's actions must be diligently executed and incorporated into the alternative scenario analysis to guarantee that gender considerations remain central to the project's success and sustainability.

With GEF funding, the Grand Bereby project will contribute to the effective management of the Grand-Béréby Marine Protected Area and address the challenges outlined in the baseline scenario. This includes improving coastal and marine ecosystem management, enhancing biodiversity conservation, promoting sustainable land use practices, strengthening governance and institutional capacity, and increasing awareness and stakeholder engagement. These efforts will ultimately contribute to the sustainable development and environmental conservation of the Grand Bereby region, enhancing the resilience of local communities to climate change and other environmental threats.

Project components and expected results

The project is organized into three components, each with specific objectives and outputs. Component 1 focuses on the establishment of a climate-resilient and gender-sensitive Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone management plan, which will guide the sustainable management of natural resources in the area. Component 2 aims to provide alternative livelihood options to both men and women to reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes while increasing revenue. Lastly, Component 3 is focused on knowledge management and capacity building, with the goal of building and

strengthening the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone.

Under Component 1, the project aims to develop a climate-resilient and gender-sensitive Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone management plan that considers the needs and priorities of local communities and stakeholders. The project will also focus on strengthening the governance and regulatory framework for the MPA and broader coastal zone to ensure effective management and sustainable use of natural resources.

Under Component 2, the project will identify and implement alternative income-generating activities that are climate-smart and gender-sensitive. The goal of this component is to provide both men and women with viable alternatives to reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes while increasing revenue. The project will engage in a range of activities, including feasibility studies, stakeholder engagement, and small-scale funding to local NGOs and community-based organizations to implement viable alternatives.

Under Component 3, the project will focus on building the capacity of relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone. This will involve a range of activities, including training, learning exchanges, and networking opportunities. The project will also develop gender-sensitive indicators and monitoring protocols to monitor the performance of the MPA objective.

Component 1: Improved Policy, Regulatory frameworks and capacity for the management of the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes

Component 1 of the project is focused on the development of improved policy, regulatory frameworks and capacity for the management of the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA), landscape and seascapes. The ultimate goal is to make the MPA fully functional and adopt a long-term strategy, policies and associated institutional arrangements designed to conserve the broader coastal biodiversity.

This component seeks to establish the institutional, regulatory framework, and technical capacity with due consideration to gender for the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes. To achieve this goal, the project aims to involve the communities in the management of the MPA and establish a multi-sectoral, gender-sensitive platform composed of representatives from government agencies, private sector, and civil society. The platform will address the loss of marine biodiversity and other issues of common concern that affect the ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes.

To ensure the long-term management of the MPA, policy and regulatory frameworks for the conservation of specific threatened biodiversity and ecosystem services such as mangroves and endemic species will be developed, validated, and piloted at pilot sites. Mangrove ecosystems and the harvesting of mangroves has been identified as important attributes of coastal environments in and around Grand Bereby (see Figure 6). The project will leverage the recommendations from the output of the GEF6 project ID 9366: "Sustainability and Scaling Up Approaches for Transformational Management, Restoration, and Conservation of Forests Landscapes and Biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire (SSATMARC-FOLAB)" to support policy and regulatory reforms.

The formal establishment of the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) through the Presidential Decree, which is appended to this proposal, lays a solid foundation of policy and regulatory baseline that is imperative for the robust management and conservation of the MPA. This legal recognition not only earmarks the geographic expanse of the MPA, safeguarding it from encroachments and detrimental activities, but also enunciates the state's commitment towards preserving the marine biodiversity inherent to the Grand Bereby landscape and seascapes. The decree serves as a cornerstone, furnishing the authoritative groundwork upon which further regulatory frameworks and policies can be meticulously developed, validated, and ultimately implemented. It encapsulates the preliminary regulatory scaffolding necessary for the cultivation of a more comprehensive, gender-sensitive, and multi-sectoral management strategy as envisioned in Component 1 of the project. By delineating the legal and institutional contours of the Grand Bereby MPA, the decree facilitates the envisaged establishment of a collaborative platform engaging government bodies, private sector stakeholders, and civil society. This platform is poised to be instrumental in addressing the marine biodiversity loss and other pressing ecological challenges that beleaguer the Grand Bereby MPA, its adjoining landscapes, and seascapes. Moreover, the decree engenders a conducive milieu for the augmentation of technical and institutional capacities, crucial for the long-term sustenance and effective management of the MPA.

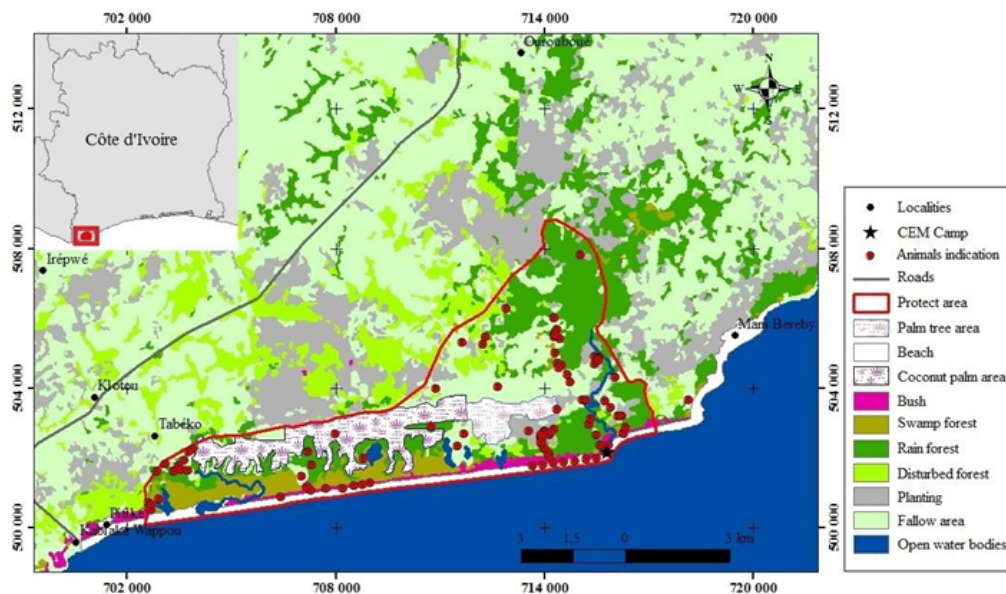


Figure 6. Mangroves in the Haute-Dodo VNR, in the Dodo-Cavally complex[45]²¹.

The governance bodies will be set up at the central level and the local management committee at the site level. This will require an update of the stakeholder analysis to ensure that all stakeholders are targeted. The organization of consultation meetings will be facilitated, and the processes of appointment of social-

professional representatives in a gender-sensitive and participatory manner will be carried out, particularly at the community level.

A climate-resilient and gender-sensitive integrated management plan for the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascape will be developed using integrated coastal management procedures, and a related business plan will be established. The project will identify and establish a financial mechanism within the framework of the Parks and Reserves Foundation of Cote d'Ivoire (FPRCI) to support the establishment of the MPAs network, which the project will support as a pilot.

Two to three gender-sensitive cooperation agreements between the Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) managing the Grand Bereby MPA and municipalities, fisheries, oil and gas, tourism, and maritime ports/transportation sectors will be negotiated to support the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascapes management plan implementation. The agreements will promote ecosystem services, including controlled access rights, and involve the pooling of means and resources. They will also cover participatory monitoring between the organizations of fishing communities and the fisheries department, the collection of data for research, and the monitoring of the state of habitats and species.

Finally, gender-sensitive training sessions will be conducted, tools, guidelines, and methodologies developed with due consideration of gender to increase the institutional and technical capacity of OIPR, relevant public, municipal and private sector institutions to support Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascapes management plans implementation. Gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy material will also be developed and activities implemented to support Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascapes management plan implementation.

Outcome 1.1: The Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes Institutional , Regulatory Framework, and Technical capacity Established with due gender consideration.

This Outcome aims to establish the institutional, regulatory framework, and technical capacity for the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes, with due consideration for gender. The ultimate goal of this outcome is to ensure the sustainable conservation of coastal biodiversity and ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. To achieve this, the outcome includes two key outputs. Outcome 1.1 is critical to the success of the project as it establishes the necessary institutional and regulatory framework, technical capacity, and community participation activities needed to ensure the sustainable conservation of coastal biodiversity and ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. The development of climate-resilient management plans and related business plans will also ensure the sustainable financing of the Future MPA Network, with the Grand Bereby MPA serving as a pilot. The consideration of gender in the development of these plans and activities will ensure that women and men have equal opportunities to participate in the management of the MPA and will also help to address gender-specific challenges related to coastal conservation and management.

During the project preparation, a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool was used to assess some of the management challenges of the MPA (see attached METT form). The analysis of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores 20% for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) has elucidated several key management challenges that the proposed project seeks to address in order to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the MPA. Firstly, the issue of legal enforcement is a paramount concern, as evidenced by the METT scores which highlight an initial lack of effective capacity or resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations. This challenge necessitates a concerted effort to bolster law enforcement capabilities through the provision of adequate resources,

training, and institutional support, thereby enabling the effective enforcement of regulations, and ensuring compliance with the established legal and regulatory frameworks governing the MPA.

Secondly, the METT scores indicate a deficiency in the development and implementation of a comprehensive management plan. A management plan serves as a pivotal instrument for guiding the conservation and management actions within the MPA. The lack of a fully implemented management plan at project start-up and mid-term stages underscores the critical need for the formulation and execution of a robust management plan that is inclusive of the necessary financial, human, and technical resources. This plan should align with the overarching objectives of the MPA, and provide a clear roadmap for addressing the various management challenges, while also establishing mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

Thirdly, the lack of adequate staff training and numbers poses a significant hurdle in achieving the management objectives of the MPA. The METT scores reveal that staff training and numbers were below the desired levels, which could impede the effective management and conservation of the MPA. Addressing this challenge entails not only the recruitment of additional staff but also the provision of continuous training and capacity building programs to equip the personnel with the requisite skills and knowledge necessary for the effective management of the MPA.

Lastly, the challenge of ensuring economic benefits to local communities is highlighted by the METT scores, which showed some flow of economic benefits, but not at a major scale. Fostering a symbiotic relationship between the MPA and the adjacent communities is crucial for ensuring the long-term sustainability and acceptance of the MPA. The project should strive to enhance the flow of economic benefits to local communities through initiatives such as community-based ecotourism, sustainable fisheries management, and payment for ecosystem services schemes. This would not only contribute to local livelihoods but also engender community support and participation in the conservation and management of the Grand Bereby MPA.

The update of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) analysis, slated for the inception workshop, will signify a pivotal step towards refining the management strategies for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA). Engaging a diverse spectrum of stakeholders both vertically and horizontally will ensure a holistic and inclusive review process. This collaborative effort will aim to encapsulate varied perspectives and insights which will be instrumental in identifying consensual challenges and gaps pertinent to the MPA management. The revision of the METT analysis, enriched by the broad-based stakeholder input, will serve as a robust foundation for the formulation of management plans. These plans will be meticulously crafted to address the identified challenges and gaps, thereby fostering a conducive framework for enhancing the management effectiveness of the MPA. The iterative nature of this process, beginning with a comprehensive METT analysis and culminating in the development of adaptive integrated management plans, will embody a pragmatic approach towards achieving the long-term conservation and sustainability objectives of the Grand Bereby MPA. Through this collaborative and adaptive planning process, the project will endeavor to bridge the management efficacy gaps, and propel the MPA towards a trajectory of enhanced conservation and sustainable utilization of its marine and coastal resources.

Output 1.1.1. Establish a multi-sectoral platform, including community participation, to address marine biodiversity loss in Grand Beriby landscape/seascapes

This Output aims to establish community participation activities in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. This will be achieved through the dissemination of MPA management principles to local communities, which will increase their knowledge and understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation in the coastal zone. Community surveillance activities will also be put in place to ensure the protection and conservation of coastal zones through eco-guards and local ecotourism operators.

In addition to community participation activities, a multi-sectoral platform composed of representatives of government agencies, private sector, and civil society will be established to address the loss of marine biodiversity and other issues of common concern that affect the ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of the Grand Bereby landscape/seascapes. This platform will provide a space for dialogue, information sharing, and collaboration among stakeholders in the coastal zone, including those from government, the private sector, and civil society. Through this platform, stakeholders will be able to coordinate their efforts towards the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes.

Due consideration will be given to gender in the establishment of the community participation activities and multi-sectoral platform. Women, men, and other vulnerable groups will be engaged in the process, ensuring that their voices and perspectives are heard and considered in decision-making processes. This will promote gender equality and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project outcomes. Overall, Output 1.1.1 is critical to the achievement of Outcome 1.1, as it will ensure that local communities are actively involved in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes, and that stakeholders are able to collaborate effectively towards the common goal of coastal biodiversity conservation.

The process of establishing community participation activities in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes

To establish community participation activities in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes, the project will have to undertake a process that will involve consultation and engagement with the local communities in the Grand Bereby area. This will begin with the identification of the communities that are within the MPA and those that are adjacent to it. The project will then develop an awareness-raising strategy that will inform the communities of the importance of the MPA, the threats to its sustainability, and the benefits of their involvement in its management.

Once the communities have been sensitized and their understanding of the MPA and its importance has been enhanced, the project will develop a participatory approach that will involve the communities in the MPA management process. This will include the identification and selection of community representatives who will participate in the decision-making process for the MPA. The community representatives will be selected through a process that ensures representation of all groups within the community, including women and other marginalized groups.

The selected community representatives will be trained on MPA management principles, including surveillance, protection, and conservation of coastal zones through eco-guards and local ecotourist operators. The training will also include the development of skills on advocacy and negotiation with government agencies, private sector entities, and civil society to address the loss of marine biodiversity and other issues of common concern that affect the ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of Grand Bereby landscape/seascapes.

The process of establishing a multi-stakeholder platform

Establishing a multi-sectoral platform is an important step towards ensuring the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. By bringing together representatives from the government, private sector, and civil society, the platform can help to ensure that the perspectives and interests of all stakeholders are taken into consideration in the management of the area. The process of

creating this platform involves several steps, including identifying the relevant government agencies, private sector actors, and civil society organizations that will be invited to participate.

The first step is to conduct an analysis of the stakeholders involved in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. This will help to identify the various actors that have a stake in the management of the area and who can contribute to the multi-sectoral platform. The analysis should be done in a gender-sensitive manner, taking into consideration the different roles and perspectives of men and women in relation to the MPA.

Once the relevant stakeholders have been identified, the next step is to establish a forum for engagement and collaboration. This could be in the form of a multi-sectoral committee or working group that brings together representatives from the government, private sector, and civil society. The committee should be gender-balanced to ensure that the perspectives of both men and women are represented.

The purpose of the multi-sectoral platform is to provide a space for dialogue and collaboration on issues related to the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. The platform should aim to build consensus on key issues and develop shared solutions to the challenges faced in the management of the area. This may involve developing policies, regulations, and strategies for the sustainable management of the MPA, as well as identifying opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing.

Regular meetings should be held to facilitate ongoing dialogue and collaboration among the members of the platform. The meetings should be structured to ensure that all members have a voice and that decisions are made through a participatory and inclusive process. The platform should also be supported by technical staff and resources to ensure that it can function effectively and achieve its objectives.

Project Activities	Deliverables
Conduct stakeholder analysis and mapping	A stakeholder analysis report with the identification of all relevant stakeholders, their roles, interests, and potential contribution to MPA management and a stakeholder map.
Develop and implement a communication and outreach strategy	Communication and outreach strategy, including key messages, target audiences, channels, and activities to engage and inform stakeholders, with regular communication materials such as brochures, posters, and newsletters.
Conduct community sensitization and awareness-raising activities	A report on community sensitization and awareness-raising activities, including the topics covered, methods used, and participants' feedback.
Establish a multi-sectoral platform	A platform composed of representatives from government agencies, the private sector, and civil society to address issues affecting the ecological health, connectivity, and productivity of the Grand Bereby landscape/seascapes.
Conduct capacity building workshops	Workshop reports with detailed training modules, materials, and evaluation results on topics such as marine conservation, ecosystem management, gender equality, and participatory governance.

Project Activities	Deliverables
Designate the MPA and register with the WDPA	The decision designating the Grand Bereby MPA by the relevant political authority, as well as a copy of the registration in the official gazette.

Output 1.1.2. Develop climate-resilient management and business plans for Grand Bereby MPA with a focus on technical, capacity, and gender considerations.

This project Output focuses on the development of climate resilient management plans and related business plans for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA), landscape, and seascape. The goal of this output is to establish a comprehensive management framework for the MPA and surrounding areas, which will ensure the protection of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.

The management plans developed under this output will define the policies and regulations necessary to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA, taking into account the need for climate resilience. This will involve assessing the technical and capacity needs of the MPA, identifying the necessary boundaries for effective management, and disseminating the regulatory framework to relevant stakeholders.

Aligning the management plans to objectives of climate resilience

Climate resilience refers to the ability of an ecosystem to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change while continuing to function and provide benefits to humans and other species. The Grand Bereby region is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and ocean acidification, which can have significant impacts on the health and productivity of marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

To ensure that the management plans developed under Output 1.1.2 are aligned with climate resilience objectives, the plans will take into account the unique climate-related risks and opportunities in the Grand Bereby region, and incorporate strategies to build resilience to climate change impacts. The plans will be developed through a participatory process that involves stakeholders from local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and other relevant actors to ensure that diverse perspectives are taken into account.

The management plans will include a range of actions to enhance climate resilience in the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascape, including:

1. Incorporating climate change considerations into the design of the Future MPA Network, including the identification of climate-resilient areas that are less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
2. Developing adaptation strategies to address the potential impacts of climate change on marine and terrestrial ecosystems, such as sea level rise, ocean acidification, and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns.
3. Implementing measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy sources, to contribute to global efforts to mitigate climate change.
4. Strengthening monitoring and research efforts to better understand the impacts of climate change on the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascape, and to inform management decisions.
5. Building the capacity of local communities, government agencies, and other stakeholders to implement climate-resilient management practices and strategies.

The following table illustrates how the management plans developed under Output 1.1.2 can be aligned to objectives of climate resilience for Grand Bereby:

Climate resilience objectives	Management plan strategies
Incorporate climate change considerations into the design of the Future MPA Network	- Identify climate-resilient areas for inclusion in the Future MPA Network
Develop adaptation strategies to address potential impacts of climate change	- Develop and implement adaptation strategies for marine and terrestrial ecosystems
Implement measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	- Reduce energy consumption and increase use of renewable energy sources
Strengthen monitoring and research efforts	- Enhance monitoring and research efforts to better understand climate change impacts
Build capacity of stakeholders to implement climate-resilient management practices	- Provide training and capacity-building opportunities for local communities and government agencies

It can be seen that the management plans developed under this Output for the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascape will be aligned with objectives of climate resilience by incorporating strategies to address climate-related risks and opportunities, building capacity of stakeholders to implement climate-resilient management practices, and contributing to global efforts to mitigate climate change.

Business plans to harness economic opportunities and benefits

In addition to the management plans, this output also focuses on developing related business plans, which will outline the economic opportunities and benefits associated with sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas. The financial mechanism within the framework of FPRCI will be established to ensure that the management plans are financially sustainable and that proceeds from sustainable use of the MPA are channeled back into conservation efforts.

The development of business plans for the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas is an important component of this output. Such business plans will outline the economic opportunities and benefits associated with sustainable use of the MPA and surrounding areas, taking into consideration the goals of climate resilience and gender considerations. The business plans will need to be informed by the management plans developed under this output, ensuring that they align with the overall objectives of the project.

Some key elements that can be included in the business plans are:

1. Identification of potential economic opportunities: The business plan should identify potential economic opportunities associated with sustainable use of the MPA and surrounding areas. This can include activities such as eco-tourism, sustainable fisheries, and aquaculture, among others.
2. Market analysis: The business plan should include a market analysis to determine the demand for the identified economic opportunities, and to identify potential buyers and partners.
3. Financial projections: The business plan should include financial projections, outlining the costs and revenues associated with the identified economic opportunities. This will help to determine the financial viability of the opportunities and to identify potential funding sources.

4. Governance and institutional framework: The business plan should also outline the governance and institutional framework required to support the identified economic opportunities. This may include policies and regulations, licensing and permit requirements, and capacity building needs.
5. Gender considerations: The business plan should also consider the gender dimensions of the identified economic opportunities, ensuring that women are able to participate and benefit equally.
6. Monitoring and evaluation: The business plan should include a monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress towards the economic objectives of the project, and to ensure that the economic opportunities are contributing to the overall goals of the project.

Complementarity between management planning and the business dimension in Grand Bereby MPA

The management plan outlines the goals, strategies, and actions necessary to achieve sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas. It provides the framework for the management and conservation of the resources, and lays out the necessary policies and regulations for achieving these goals. The management plan is a crucial component of ensuring the long-term viability of the Grand Bereby MPA.

The business plan, on the other hand, outlines the economic opportunities and benefits associated with sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas. It identifies potential revenue streams and outlines the necessary steps to create a profitable and sustainable business model for the area. The business plan is crucial for attracting private investment and generating revenue for the local community.

The two plans are interdependent and complementary. The management plan provides the regulatory framework necessary for sustainable resource use, while the business plan provides the economic incentives necessary to encourage private investment and sustainable use of the resources. The success of the management plan is dependent on the success of the business plan, and vice versa. Together, the two plans work in tandem to achieve the overarching goal of sustainable use and conservation of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas.

Interdependence and complementarity between the management plan and the business plan for the Grand Bereby MPA:

Management Plan	Business Plan
Provides a framework for the sustainable use of resources within the MPA	Outlines the economic opportunities and benefits associated with the sustainable use of resources within the MPA
Identifies key goals and objectives for the conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services	Identifies potential revenue streams and economic activities that align with conservation goals
Establishes regulations and guidelines for resource use and conservation	Outlines strategies for marketing and promoting sustainable products and services to generate revenue
Outlines monitoring and evaluation strategies to assess the effectiveness of conservation efforts	Identifies market trends and opportunities for innovation to improve profitability of sustainable economic activities

Management Plan	Business Plan
Guides decision-making and adaptive management in response to changes in the MPA ecosystem and external factors	Guides investment decisions and resource allocation for economic activities to ensure long-term sustainability of the MPA ecosystem
Provides a framework for stakeholder engagement and collaboration in the management of the MPA	Identifies potential partnerships and collaborations for sustainable economic activities within the MPA

The management plan and business plan are mutually reinforcing, with the management plan providing the conservation and sustainability framework necessary for the successful implementation of the business plan. The business plan, in turn, provides economic incentives for stakeholders to engage in sustainable resource use and conservation efforts outlined in the management plan. Together, the plans form a comprehensive approach to the management and sustainable use of resources within the Grand Bereby MPA.

Incorporating gender considerations in the management and business planning process is critical for ensuring equitable participation and benefits for all stakeholders, particularly women who often face systemic barriers to accessing and benefiting from natural resources. The Grand Bereby project recognizes this and has made a commitment to ensure that gender considerations are mainstreamed throughout all phases of the project. This includes the development of management and business plans, which will incorporate gender analysis to identify the differentiated roles, needs, and opportunities of men and women in the target communities. The project will also prioritize the participation of women in decision-making processes related to the management and sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas, and ensure that their voices are heard and taken into account in all project activities. By incorporating gender considerations into the management and business planning, the project will create an enabling environment that promotes gender equality, reduces gender disparities, and promotes the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources.

Project Activity	Deliverables
Conduct consultations with key stakeholders to define management and business plan objectives	Stakeholder consultation report outlining management and business plan objectives
Assess technical and capacity policies and regulatory needs for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape	Technical and capacity policies and regulatory needs assessment report
Determine the necessary boundaries for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape	Boundaries report detailing the necessary boundaries for the MPA landscape and seascape
Develop a climate-resilient management plan for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape	Climate-resilient management plan for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape
Develop a business plan for sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas	Business plan outlining economic opportunities and benefits associated with sustainable use of the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding areas

Project Activity	Deliverables
Establish a financial mechanism within the framework of FPRCI	FPRCI financial mechanism established and documented
Establish a governance structure with due gender consideration for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape	Governance structure with due gender consideration for the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascape established and documented

Output 1.1.3. Negotiate 2-3 agreements between OIPR and various sectors to support Grand-B?r?by MPA management.

In this Output, the project will establish cooperation agreements between the OIPR managing the Grand-B?r?by MPA and key stakeholders such as municipalities, fisheries, oil and gas, tourism, and maritime ports/transportation sectors to support the implementation of the Grand-B?r?by MPA landscape and seascape management plans. As an institution, the objective of the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR) is to preserve and enhance a representative sample of the national biological diversity and to maintain the ecological processes in the protected areas in a sustainable manner[1]. These cooperation agreements will ensure that the stakeholders have a clear understanding of the management plans and their responsibilities in supporting the implementation process. The agreements will be negotiated with consideration for the concerns of women and men to ensure gender equity and the participation of all stakeholders.

The cooperation agreements will provide a framework for collaboration, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in supporting the implementation of the management plans. The agreements will also identify the necessary resources, including financial and technical support, that each stakeholder will contribute to the implementation process. By establishing these agreements, the project will ensure that all stakeholders are working together towards a common goal of sustainable management of the Grand-B?r?by MPA landscape and seascape.

Potential roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in the implementation of the management plans

The successful implementation of the management plans for the Grand-B?r?by MPA requires the participation and collaboration of various stakeholders[2]. Each stakeholder has specific roles and responsibilities that contribute to the overall success of the project.

1. OIPR (Office Ivoirien des Parcs et R?series): OIPR is the primary agency responsible for the management of the Grand-B?r?by MPA. As such, its roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Developing and overseeing the implementation of the management plans
- ? Ensuring that the MPA regulations are followed
- ? Coordinating with other stakeholders to achieve the project goals
- ? Monitoring and evaluating the progress of the project

2. Municipalities: The municipalities in the Grand-B?r?by area play a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the management plans. Their roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Providing support for community outreach and awareness campaigns
- ? Collaborating with OIPR to ensure the effective management of the MPA
- ? Ensuring that local regulations and bylaws are consistent with the MPA regulations

3. Fisheries sector: The fisheries sector is a major stakeholder in the Grand-B?r?by area, and their roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Adhering to the MPA regulations to ensure sustainable fishing practices
- ? Collaborating with OIPR to ensure that fishing activities are compatible with the MPA management plans
- ? Supporting the development of alternative livelihood options for fisherfolk to reduce pressure on the MPA

4. Oil and gas sector: The oil and gas sector also has a significant presence in the Grand-B?r?by area, and their roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Adhering to the MPA regulations to minimize the impact of their activities on the MPA
- ? Collaborating with OIPR to ensure that their activities are compatible with the MPA management plans
- ? Supporting the development of alternative livelihood options for local communities to reduce dependence on natural resources

5. Tourism sector: The tourism sector has the potential to provide economic benefits to the local communities in the Grand-B?r?by area[3], and their roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Adhering to the MPA regulations to minimize the impact of tourism activities on the MPA
- ? Collaborating with OIPR to ensure that tourism activities are compatible with the MPA management plans
- ? Supporting the development of sustainable tourism practices that benefit both the environment and the local communities

6. Maritime ports/transportation sector: The ports and transportation sector plays a crucial role in facilitating the flow of goods and people in and out of the Grand-B?r?by area, and their roles and responsibilities include:

- ? Adhering to the MPA regulations to minimize the impact of their activities on the MPA
- ? Collaborating with OIPR to ensure that their activities are compatible with the MPA management plans
- ? Supporting the development of alternative transportation options that reduce pressure on the MPA and surrounding areas

The negotiation of these cooperation agreements will require a participatory approach[4], with input from all stakeholders, including women and men. This will ensure that the concerns and needs of all stakeholders are incorporated into the agreements. The agreements will also prioritize gender equity, ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate in the management of the Grand-B?r?by MPA landscape and seascape.

Project Activity	Deliverables
Conduct stakeholder analysis to identify potential partners for cooperation agreements	List of potential partners for cooperation agreements

Project Activity	Deliverables
Develop cooperation agreement templates and negotiation strategies	Cooperation agreement templates and negotiation strategies
Identify key areas of cooperation and establish technical working groups	Technical working groups established with defined areas of cooperation
Negotiate and finalize cooperation agreements with municipalities, fisheries, oil and gas, tourism, and maritime ports/transportation sectors	Signed cooperation agreements with key stakeholders
Develop and implement a communication and awareness-raising strategy for the cooperation agreements	Communication and awareness-raising materials developed and implemented, increased awareness among stakeholders of the cooperation agreements and their roles in supporting the management plans

Output 1.1.4. Conduct gender-sensitive trainings and develop tools to enhance the capacity of stakeholders for MPA management.

This Output will be used to enhance the institutional and technical capacity of the OIPR, relevant public, municipal, and private sector institutions to support the implementation of the Grand-B?r?by MPA, landscape, and seascapes Management Plans, with due consideration for gender concerns. To achieve this output, a series of gender-sensitive training sessions will be conducted for the different stakeholders involved in the project. The training will cover a range of topics, including the importance of gender considerations in MPA management, technical skills needed for effective MPA management, and strategies for stakeholder engagement and participation.

The topics to be covered will be essential for the successful implementation of the Grand-B?r?by MPA landscape and seascapes management plans. These topics will include, but are not limited to, the ecological importance of the MPA and its associated ecosystems, sustainable resource management, stakeholder engagement and participation, the legal and regulatory frameworks governing the MPA, gender and social inclusion considerations, conflict resolution and communication skills, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks. The training will also focus on enhancing technical capacities in areas such as data collection and analysis, geographic information systems (GIS), marine and coastal ecology, and adaptive management. The overarching goal of the training will be to build the capacity of OIPR, relevant public, municipal and private sector institutions to effectively support the implementation of the Grand-B?r?by MPA, landscape and seascapes management plans in a manner that is inclusive and gender-sensitive.

The development of tools, guidelines, and methodologies will be based on best practices and will be tailored to the specific context of the Grand-B?r?by MPA and surrounding areas. Examples of tools that will be developed under this Output will include:

- *Gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation frameworks* will help to track progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in the context of the project. These frameworks could include indicators related to women's participation in decision-making processes, access to and control over resources, and improvements in their well-being.
- *Gender mainstreaming guidelines for the management plans* will help to ensure that gender considerations are incorporated throughout the management process, from planning to implementation

and evaluation. These guidelines could provide guidance on how to conduct gender analysis and ensure that gender perspectives are reflected in the goals and objectives of the management plans.

• *Gender-disaggregated data collection methodologies* will help to ensure that data is collected in a way that captures gender differences and inequalities. This can be used to inform decision-making and ensure that the needs and perspectives of both men and women are taken into account in the management of the Grand-Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes.

Other potential tools could include gender-sensitive training modules for project staff and stakeholders, gender-responsive communication and outreach strategies, and guidelines for gender-sensitive budgeting and resource allocation. All of these tools will help to ensure that gender considerations are integrated into the project's activities and contribute to achieving the project's goals of sustainable management and conservation of the Grand-Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes with consideration of gender perspectives.

By increasing the capacity of stakeholders to incorporate gender considerations into their work, this output will contribute to the sustainable management of the Grand-Bereby MPA and surrounding areas, while promoting gender equality and social inclusion. This will be achieved through increased participation of women in decision-making processes and the incorporation of their perspectives into the management and monitoring of the MPA and surrounding areas.

Project Activity	Deliverables
1. Identify training needs of OIPR and relevant institutions	Training needs assessment report
2. Develop gender-sensitive training curricula for OIPR staff and other relevant institutions	Training curricula
3. Conduct gender-sensitive training sessions for OIPR staff and relevant institutions	Training session reports
4. Develop and disseminate guidelines and methodologies for gender-sensitive management of Grand Bereby MPA	Guidelines and methodologies
5. Develop and disseminate tools for gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation of Grand Bereby MPA	Monitoring and evaluation tools
6. Conduct follow-up assessments to measure the effectiveness of the training and use of tools	Follow-up assessment report

Output 1.1.5. Produce and implement gender-sensitive awareness materials for GB MPA management.

This Output is focused on developing gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA), landscape and seascapes Management Plans implementation. To achieve this output, the project will collaborate with the country's Ministry of the Family, Women, and Children and other key stakeholders to develop and implement a range of activities, including awareness-raising campaigns, workshops, and the development and dissemination of gender-sensitive materials.

Specific tasks to be accomplished under this output include identifying key audiences for awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, developing gender-sensitive messages and materials, and conducting training sessions for stakeholders to improve their capacity to integrate gender considerations in their

work. Additionally, the project will work with the Ministry of the Family, Women, and Children to integrate gender considerations into the overall project design and implementation.

Collaboration with other key stakeholders will also be critical to the success of this output. The project will work closely with local NGOs, women's groups, and community-based organizations to ensure that awareness-raising and advocacy activities are relevant and effective in addressing the needs of both men and women. The project will also engage with local media outlets to disseminate information on the importance of gender-sensitive management of the Grand-Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes, as well as the benefits of sustainable resource management.

By working closely with the Ministry of the Family, Women, and Children and other key stakeholders, this output aims to increase awareness and advocacy around gender-sensitive management of the Grand-Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes, ultimately leading to improved management practices and more equitable distribution of benefits for both men and women in the local communities.

Project Activity	Deliverables
1. Conduct a gender analysis to identify gender-specific gaps and needs in awareness and advocacy	Gender analysis report outlining gaps and needs for gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy
2. Develop gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy materials	Gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy materials, such as brochures, posters, and videos, developed and produced
3. Disseminate awareness and advocacy materials	Awareness and advocacy materials distributed to key stakeholders, including local communities, private sector, and government institutions
4. Conduct gender-sensitive awareness-raising sessions	Conduct gender-sensitive awareness-raising sessions targeting key stakeholders, including local communities, private sector, and government institutions
5. Conduct capacity building sessions for key stakeholders on gender-sensitive communication and advocacy strategies	Training sessions conducted for key stakeholders on gender-sensitive communication and advocacy strategies
6. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the awareness and advocacy campaign	Monitoring and evaluation report on the effectiveness of the awareness and advocacy campaign, including lessons learned and recommendations for future campaigns

Component 2: Gender sensitive alternative livelihood in support of Grand Bereby MPA Management Plan implementation

The aim of this component is to reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascapes, and increase revenue through the identification, validation, and implementation of gender-sensitive, climate-smart alternative income-generating activities (AIGAs).

To achieve this aim, the project will conduct a feasibility study with due gender consideration on the valorization of the Grand Bereby Marine landscape and seascapes area value chains^[5] in support of the PA landscape and seascapes Management Plans implementation and communities livelihood. This

feasibility study will clarify all the concrete impactful activities within and outside the MPA landscape and seascapes, including connectivity, corridors, and EBSAs. The study will also identify the sources of ecological pressure and the most appropriate sustainable alternatives.

Based on the feasibility study, climate-smart and gender-sensitive AIGA options will be identified, validated by stakeholders, and implemented through small-scale funding to CBO/local NGOs. The project will support individuals or groups through training programs on entrepreneurship, cooperative management, facilitation to market access, and shifting from unsustainable activities towards more sustainable activities. Income-generating activities will also target activities with high added-value then through appropriate training and equipment can generate more earnings with sustainable withdrawal.

The feasibility study of the viable AIGA activities will include the identification and design of sustainability conditions to be put in place. The project will also set up a monitoring and evaluation system to measure the economic performance of the targeted activities and trends in biodiversity.

The expected outcome of the implementation of this component will be "available alternatives for both men and women livelihood options to reduce pressure on Grand Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes and increase revenue". This component will contribute to reducing the pressure on natural resources within and outside the MPA landscape and seascapes, increase income and livelihoods, and empower women and vulnerable groups.

Outcome 2.1. Available for both men and women alternatives Livelihood options to reduce pressure on Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes and increase revenue and provide long term financing of the PA..

The Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes face significant challenges due to the activities of the local communities who rely on the resources from the area for their livelihoods. As a result, the ecosystem is under significant threat, and the conservation efforts in the area are not producing the desired results. The Outcome 2.1 of Component 2 of the project aims to address this issue by providing the communities with alternative livelihood options that are both climate-smart and gender-sensitive. The ultimate goal is to reduce poverty in the surrounding communities while simultaneously reducing the pressure on the MPA.

To achieve this outcome, the project has identified two key outputs that will work together to provide the necessary support to the communities. Output 2.1.1 involves conducting a gender-sensitive feasibility study on the valorization of the Grand Bereby Marine landscape and seascapes value chains in support of the PA, landscape, and seascapes management plans implementation and communities livelihood. This output aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the existing value chains in the area and to identify new opportunities that are both sustainable and climate-smart. The study will be conducted with a gender-sensitive lens to ensure that the needs and priorities of both men and women in the community are addressed. Output 2.1.2 involves identifying, validating, and implementing climate-smart and gender-sensitive alternative income-generating activity (AIGA) options through small-scale funding to CBO/local NGO. This output aims to implement the findings of Output 2.1.1 by providing the necessary funding and support to implement the alternative income-generating activities identified. The AIGAs will be designed to reduce the reliance of the communities on activities that harm the MPA, while also providing a sustainable source of income. The project will provide training in addition to technical support for all those prevailing in the project area have been identified during the PPG thematic studies and presented in a table in Output 2.1.2 in order to equip them with the capacity to develop small project and apply for the small grant. The 4th activity of this Output is specifically dedicated to training and capacity building.

A transparent committee which will include representatives of all the stakeholders will select those projects which are most capable of creating impact in relation with the MPA creation objective. Criteria for selection will be set in a participative manner. Fairness and transparency will be ensured by key project and community stakeholder taking an active role in the open selection process for beneficiaries of the AIGAs.

Together, these two outputs will provide the necessary support to the communities to reduce poverty, while also protecting the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes. By providing alternative livelihood options, the project aims to alleviate the pressure on the MPA and promote the sustainable use of the resources in the area. The AIGAs will be designed to be climate-smart and gender-sensitive to ensure that the needs and priorities of all members of the community are addressed.

Output 2.1.1 Conduct a gender-sensitive feasibility study on valorizing Grand Bereby's marine landscapes in support of management plans and reduction of pressure on the MPA.

This Output is directed at conducting a gender-sensitive feasibility study on the value chains of the Grand Bereby Marine landscape and seascapes in support of the management plans implementation and livelihoods of the surrounding communities. The goal is to provide a gender-sensitive and evidence-based foundation for the identification and development of sustainable livelihood options for the surrounding communities. The feasibility study will provide a roadmap for the identification of alternative income-generating activities that are climate-smart, gender-sensitive, and sustainable, with the potential to reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes while increasing revenue for the surrounding communities.

The feasibility study will involve an in-depth analysis of the value chains within the MPA landscape and seascapes, identifying the key economic activities that contribute to the degradation of the ecosystem, as well as those that have the potential to provide sustainable livelihoods for the surrounding communities.

Table 2. Classification of value chains by activity sectors in Grand-Bereby area^[6]

Sectors	Sub-sectors	Value chains	Economic potentials of value chains		
			Local demand	External demand	Local employment opportunities
Agriculture	Hevea	Caoutchouc	Low due to insufficient marketing channels (SOGB, local cooperatives).	High due to persistent demand in plastics, tyres and polymers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High in the farms. - Weak in processing chains due to the lack of local industrial processing units

	Oil palm	Oil	Medium because of the manufacture, transport and marketing of traditional soap, consumption of red oil.	High due to production of refined oil, cosmetics and export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High in the farms. - Weak in processing chains due to the lack of local industrial processing units
	Cocoa	Cocoa beans	Low due to insufficient marketing channels (local cooperatives).	High due to production of chocolate powder, cocoa butter and export	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High in the farms. - Very weak in the processing chains due to the lack of local industrial processing units.
	Coconut palm	Coco, Oil, copra	Medium due to consumption of coconuts, artisanal production of coconut oil.	Medium due to coconut oil production and copra and oil export.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium in the farms. - Weak in the processing chains due to the lack of local industrial processing units.
Fisheries	Fish and crustaceans	Fresh fish and crustaceans, Dried and smoked fish	High due to consumption of shellfish, fresh, dried and smoked fish.	Low due to lack of supply chain and preservation for external demand[7]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medium in fishing activities - Medium in storage chains due to lack of modern smokehouses and cold stores.
Tourism	Accommodation	Hotel, guesthouse, Lodge, transport	High due to high tourist and passenger numbers		Medium due to lack of hotel infrastructure and lack of skilled workers.
	Restaurant	Local food, foreign food	High due to the high tourist, worker and passenger numbers		High due to high traffic of tourists, workers and passengers

	Eco-tourism	Beach, fauna, excursions,	Moderate due to tourist numbers		Weak due to lack of involvement of local communities.
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The feasibility study will be conducted with due consideration for gender, ensuring that the needs and priorities of both men and women are taken into account. The study will involve a participatory approach, involving local communities, government agencies, private sector actors, and civil society organizations. The goal is to ensure that the study reflects the realities on the ground and is tailored to the specific needs of the surrounding communities.

The feasibility study will have several components, including the identification of potential sustainable livelihoods that are compatible with the MPA landscape and seascapes, the analysis of the market for these livelihoods, the identification of value addition opportunities within the value chains, and the identification of potential challenges and opportunities associated with the proposed livelihoods. The project preparatory grant study on socioeconomic and gender analysis already identified some of the key value chains characteristic of the project location[8]. These are in the fruit and vegetable sector, and in the fresh fish sector.

The feasibility study will also assess the technical and capacity needs of the surrounding communities, including the necessary skills and knowledge required to undertake the proposed livelihoods. Additionally, the study will assess the policy and regulatory framework, identifying any bottlenecks that may hinder the implementation of the proposed livelihoods and providing recommendations for addressing them.

Project Activity	Deliverables
1. Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify relevant community members, government agencies, and private sector representatives to be involved in the feasibility study	A stakeholder map including relevant contact information
2. Conduct gender-sensitive value chain analysis of the Grand Bereby Marine landscape and seascapes, identifying opportunities for income generation that align with the MPA's management plan	A comprehensive report on the value chains of the Grand Bereby Marine landscape and seascapes
3. Conduct a gender analysis to ensure that the feasibility study is responsive to the different needs and priorities of men and women	A comprehensive gender analysis report
4. Develop a final report outlining the results of the feasibility study and the next steps for implementing the Management Plans	A final report outlining the findings of the feasibility study and next steps for implementing the Management Plans

Output 2.1.2. Identify and implement gender-sensitive, climate-smart income generation alternatives activities through small-scale funding.

This Output will be implemented to identify and implement climate-smart and gender-sensitive alternative income-generating activities (AIGAs) to reduce the pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes while increasing revenue for the surrounding communities. This output aims to support the implementation of the management plan and promote sustainable livelihoods that are both economically viable and ecologically sustainable.

To achieve this output, the project will conduct a series of activities that involve identifying potential AIGAs that are climate-smart, gender-sensitive, and economically viable, and validating them with stakeholders. This process will involve engaging the local community, including women, youth, and other vulnerable groups, in identifying potential AIGAs that are aligned with their skills, interests, and cultural practices. The project will work with local NGOs and CBOs to facilitate the implementation of these AIGAs through small-scale funding.

The identification and implementation of climate-smart and gender-sensitive AIGAs will require a thorough analysis of the economic, social, and environmental impacts of each proposed activity. The project will conduct a feasibility study to determine the potential of each AIGA, including the market demand, production costs, and potential revenue streams. The study will also assess the social and environmental impact of each activity, with particular attention to gender equality and the preservation of the MPA landscape and seascapes.

Once the feasibility study is completed, the project will work with local NGOs and CBOs to implement the selected AIGAs through small-scale funding. The project will provide technical support and training to ensure that the AIGAs are implemented effectively and sustainably. The project will also establish a monitoring and evaluation system to track the progress of the AIGAs, measure their impact on the community and the environment, and adjust the implementation plan as needed.

Potential AIGA that may be applicable to the Grand Bereby local context, and their alignment with project sustainability goals

AIGA	Alignment with project sustainability goals
Ecotourism activities (e.g., guided tours, nature walks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promotes conservation awareness and education- Provides economic benefits to the community- Supports the MPA management through funding
Small-scale aquaculture (e.g., fish farming, oyster farming)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reduces pressure on the natural fishery resources- Provides alternative livelihoods for fisherfolk- Improves food security
Agroforestry (e.g., shade-grown coffee, cocoa farming)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promotes reforestation and conservation of forested areas- Provides economic benefits to the community- Supports sustainable agriculture practices

AIGA	Alignment with project sustainability goals
Handicraft production (e.g., weaving, woodcarving)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes local cultural heritage - Provides economic benefits to the community - Supports sustainable resource use
Renewable energy production (e.g., solar panel installation and maintenance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes clean energy generation and reduces carbon emissions - Provides economic benefits to the community - Increases energy access in the area

The ultimate goal of this output is to promote sustainable livelihoods that are both economically viable and ecologically sustainable, reduce the pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA landscape and seascapes, and improve the well-being of the surrounding communities. By identifying and implementing climate-smart and gender-sensitive AIGAs, the project aims to promote the sustainable use of the MPA and contribute to the conservation of marine biodiversity.

Operationalizing the selection of NGOs/CBOs and final beneficiaries for AIGA and ensuring fairness and transparency in grantee selection

1. Selection Criteria and Process for NGOs/CBOs and Final Beneficiaries:

Objective: To ensure that the NGOs/CBOs and final beneficiaries of the AIGA are aligned with the project's goals and have the potential to contribute effectively to its success.

Criteria for Selection:

- *Alignment with Project Objectives:* The NGO/CBO or beneficiary should have a clear mission and track record that aligns with the project's objectives.
- *Economic Viability:* The proposed activities or interventions by the NGO/CBO or beneficiary should be economically sustainable in the long run.
- *Gender Balance:* Priority will be given to NGOs/CBOs and beneficiaries that promote gender equality and ensure the active participation of both men and women.
- *Availability of Resources:* The NGO/CBO or beneficiary should have the necessary resources or the ability to mobilize them to ensure the successful implementation of the proposed activities.

Process for Selection:

- *Open Call for Applications:* An open call for applications will be announced, inviting NGOs/CBOs and potential beneficiaries to submit their proposals or interest.
- *Evaluation by a Selection Committee:* A selection committee, comprising representatives from local communities, institutions, and other key stakeholders, will evaluate the applications. This committee will be responsible for ensuring a transparent and unbiased selection process.
- *Interviews/Field Visits:* Shortlisted NGOs/CBOs and beneficiaries may be invited for interviews or field visits to further assess their suitability.
- *Final Selection:* Based on the evaluations and interviews, the selection committee will make the final decision on the NGOs/CBOs and beneficiaries to be supported under the AIGA.

2. Ensuring Fairness and Transparency in Grantee Selection:

Objective: To ensure that the grantee selection process is transparent, unbiased, and based on merit.

Measures to Ensure Fairness and Transparency:

- *Clear Terms of Reference (ToR):* The selection committee will develop a clear ToR detailing the selection criteria, process, and timelines. This ToR will be publicly available to all potential applicants.
- *Diverse Representation in the Selection Committee:* The selection committee will be composed of diverse stakeholders, ensuring that multiple perspectives are considered and that no single group can dominate the decision-making process.
- *Documentation of the Selection Process:* All stages of the selection process, including meetings, evaluations, and decisions, will be documented. This documentation will be available for review to ensure transparency.
- *Feedback Mechanism:* All applicants will receive feedback on their applications, whether they are selected or not. This will help them understand the decision and, if necessary, improve their future applications.
- *Grievance Redressal Mechanism:* A mechanism will be established where any grievances or complaints regarding the selection process can be raised and addressed in a timely and fair manner.

Project Activity	Deliverables
1. Conduct stakeholder consultations to identify AIGA options	Stakeholder report outlining identified AIGA options
2. Conduct feasibility studies on identified AIGA options	Feasibility report outlining viability of AIGA options
3. Develop a gender-sensitive implementation plan for selected AIGA options	Implementation plan outlining the steps for the selected AIGA options
4. Provide training and capacity building for CBO/Local NGO on AIGA	Training reports and materials, capacity building plan and reports
5. Implement and monitor selected AIGA options	Implementation reports, monitoring reports and success indicators

Output 2.1.3: Develop and Implement a Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Grand Bereby MPA

While the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) is a region of immense ecological value and biodiversity, playing a crucial role in the conservation of marine life and supporting the livelihoods of surrounding communities in Cote d'Ivoire, the MPA faces significant challenges in maintaining financial sustainability. Historically, the MPAs and other key protected areas in the region have relied on external funding sources and government allocations, which, while helpful, have not always been reliable or sufficient to cover the long-term costs of effective conservation and community support initiatives. This financial uncertainty poses a threat not only to the ecological integrity of the MPA but also to the well-being of the local communities that depend on its resources. The ongoing conservation efforts, crucial for protecting the diverse marine life and habitats, require consistent and adequate funding to be truly effective. Similarly, initiatives aimed at community development and

empowerment, especially those that are gender-sensitive and inclusive, need stable financial support to create lasting positive impacts. Recognizing these challenges, Output 2.1.3 of the project is dedicated to developing a financial mechanism that is robust, self-sustaining, and designed to directly support the conservation objectives of the Grand Bereby MPA.

The primary objective of Output 2.1.3 is to establish and operationalize a sustainable financial mechanism to ensure the long-term viability and conservation effectiveness of the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA). This mechanism aims to generate and manage funds in a manner that supports both the ecological goals of the MPA and the economic well-being of the surrounding communities, particularly focusing on inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches. The proposed financial mechanism is envisioned to be inclusive, taking into account the needs and contributions of all stakeholders, particularly the local communities who are the most affected by and dependent on the MPA's resources. A key aspect of this mechanism will be its alignment with the gender-sensitive approaches outlined in the project, ensuring that both men and women are equally involved and benefit from the conservation efforts. By doing so, the mechanism aims to empower local communities, promote gender equality, and ensure the sustainable management of the MPA's natural resources. Output 2.1.3 is therefore a strategic response to the need for a sustainable financial model for the Grand Bereby MPA. It represents a shift towards a more self-reliant and community-driven approach to conservation finance, one that aligns ecological conservation with socio-economic development, and ensures the long-term sustainability of the MPA and the well-being of its surrounding communities.

Creating a sustainable financial mechanism for the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) involves establishing a structure that is capable of generating, managing, and distributing funds in a way that aligns with both conservation and community development goals. Here's a detailed description of its structure and functioning:

Structure of the Sustainable Financial Mechanism

1. Governance Body:

? Comprises representatives from local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and private sector stakeholders.

? Ensures balanced representation, including gender equality, and includes experts in finance, conservation, and community development.

? Responsible for strategic oversight, policy-making, and ensuring alignment with MPA conservation objectives and community needs.

2. Operational Management Team:

? A dedicated team responsible, under OIPR, for the day-to-day operations of the financial mechanism.

? Manages fund collection, allocation, monitoring, and reporting.

? Ensures compliance with governance body directives and legal requirements.

3. Community Engagement Committee:

? A sub-committee focusing on community involvement and ensuring that local voices, particularly women and marginalized groups, are heard and considered in decision-making.

4. Advisory Panels:

? Panels of experts in various fields like marine biology, sustainable finance, community development, etc., providing insights and guidance.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation Unit:

? Focuses on tracking the performance of funded projects and the overall financial health of the mechanism.

? Ensures transparency and accountability.

Functioning of the Financial Mechanism

1. Revenue Generation:

- Diverse revenue streams are identified and developed, such as:

? *Eco-tourism projects*: Leveraging the MPA's natural beauty and biodiversity to attract responsible tourism.

? *Sustainable resource use fees*: Implementing fees for sustainable fishing, diving, etc., within the MPA.

? *Grants and Donations*: Actively seeking funds from environmental grants, philanthropies, and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

? *Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)*: Collaborating with businesses for sustainable ventures aligned with MPA objectives.

- Community-based initiatives, like handicraft sales or community-guided tours, are encouraged to ensure local economic benefit.

2. Fund Management:

- Collecting and managing funds through transparent and accountable processes.

- Implementing robust financial controls and audits to ensure proper use of funds.

3. Fund Allocation:

- Funds are allocated based on predefined criteria that prioritize conservation impact, community benefit, and sustainability.

- Proposals for funding are evaluated by the governance body with input from the community engagement committee and advisory panels.

4. Capacity Building:

- Investing in training and capacity building for local communities, especially in sustainable practices, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Regular assessment of funded projects for their impact on conservation goals and community development.

- Periodic financial audits and performance reviews to adjust strategies and improve efficiency.

6. Community Engagement and Feedback:

- Regular meetings and consultations with community members to gather feedback and ensure that their needs and priorities are being met.

- Ensuring gender-sensitive approaches in all engagements and decision-making processes.

Key Aspects for Success

- Transparency and Accountability**: Maintaining high standards of transparency in operations and decision-making, with regular reporting to stakeholders.

- Adaptability**: Being flexible and responsive to changing environmental, economic, and community needs.

- Sustainability Focus**: Ensuring that all activities funded are environmentally sustainable and contribute to long-term conservation goals.

- Inclusivity**: Prioritizing gender equality and inclusion of marginalized groups in all aspects of the mechanism.

Project Activity	Deliverables
1. Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Financial Planning Committee	Formation of a committee with detailed roles and responsibilities document.
2. Conduct a Comprehensive Financial Needs Assessment for the MPA	A comprehensive financial assessment report highlighting the funding requirements for the MPA.
3. Develop and Validate a Sustainable Financial Model	A detailed financial model document, including revenue streams and expenditure projections.
4. Organize Capacity Building Workshops on Financial Management and Sustainability for Community Representatives	Workshop materials, participant lists, and post-workshop evaluation reports.
5. Implement Pilot Projects for Revenue Generation	Detailed reports on pilot project outcomes, including financial viability and community impact.
6. Establish Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms for the Financial Mechanism	A monitoring and evaluation framework with periodic financial reporting templates and procedures.

Component 3 Knowledge management

Component 3 of the project is focused on knowledge management and capacity building. The overarching goal of this component is to enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone sustainably. This Component of the project is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. The knowledge management and capacity building activities of this component will empower stakeholders to sustainably manage the MPA, and the dissemination of gender-sensitive knowledge products will facilitate the scaling up and replication of conservation and sustainable management efforts. The establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol and a functional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System will ensure that the project is inclusive and accountable to stakeholders. The success of the project is heavily dependent on the knowledge management and capacity building activities of this component, as it lays the foundation for long-term sustainable management of the MPA.

To achieve this goal, the project will engage capacity development experts and networks to build the core capacities needed for effective MPA management. These experts will design and implement a range of capacity-building activities, including training, learning exchanges, and networking opportunities. This will ensure that stakeholders are equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills, and tools to sustainably manage the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. These activities will be gender-sensitive, ensuring that both men and women are equally empowered to participate in the management of the MPA.

A critical output of this component will be the development and dissemination of knowledge products that consider both men and women, as well as vulnerable groups, to facilitate the scaling up and replication of conservation and sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. These knowledge products will be designed to be accessible and relevant to a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. The project will work to disseminate these knowledge products through various channels, including the West Africa Coastal

Areas Management Program (WACA) platform. The WACA platform is designed to facilitate access to knowledge, expertise, and technical assistance for coastal resilience investments.

Another output of this component will be the establishment of a Grand Bereby MPA gender-sensitive monitoring protocol and the identification and monitoring of key gender-sensitive indicators. This monitoring protocol will be designed to consider the broader coastal zone, including other biodiversity significant areas such as the cross-border site of the mouth of the Cavally river in Tabou (Ivory Coast, Liberia), the site of the Dassioko classified forest, the site of the Azagny National Park, and the cross-border site of the Ehotil's islands (Ivory Coast - Ghana). This will ensure that gender considerations are incorporated into the monitoring of the MPA and broader coastal zone, and that the monitoring process is inclusive of all stakeholders.

Finally, the project will establish a functional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System with due consideration of men and women. This system will enable the project to track progress, measure the impact of interventions, and make adjustments where necessary to ensure the project is achieving its goals. It will also ensure that the project is accountable to stakeholders and that feedback is incorporated into the management of the MPA and broader coastal zone.

Outcome 3.1. Improved stakeholders including both men and women, capacities for the management and monitoring of the Grand- Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone through the use of knowledge platforms and adequate monitoring frameworks.

This Outcome focuses on improving the capacities of relevant stakeholders, including both men and women, for the effective management and monitoring of the Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone through the use of knowledge platforms and adequate monitoring frameworks. This outcome aims to promote the sustainability of the project by ensuring that stakeholders have the knowledge and skills necessary to manage the MPA and the broader coastal zone effectively.

To achieve this outcome, the project will engage capacity development experts and networks to build the core capacities needed for effective MPA management. This will involve a range of activities, including training, learning exchanges, and networking opportunities. The project will also develop gender-sensitive indicators and monitoring protocols to monitor the performance of the MPA objective. These indicators and protocols will be developed in collaboration with stakeholders to ensure their relevance and effectiveness.

One of the key outputs of this outcome will be the dissemination of knowledge products that consider both men and women, as well as vulnerable groups, to facilitate the scaling up and replication of conservation and sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. The project will establish knowledge platforms and other communication channels to disseminate these knowledge products to relevant stakeholders.

Another output of this outcome will be the establishment of a Grand Bereby MPA gender-sensitive monitoring protocol and the identification and monitoring of key gender-sensitive indicators. This monitoring protocol will consider the broader coastal zone and include other biodiversity significant areas such as the cross-border site of the mouth of the Cavally river in Tabou (Ivory Coast, Liberia), the site of the Dassioko classified forest, the site of the Azagny national park, and the cross-border site of the Ehotil's islands (Ivory Coast - Ghana). The monitoring protocol will be designed in collaboration with stakeholders and will include clear procedures for data collection, analysis, and reporting.

Finally, the project will establish a functional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System that considers both men and women. This will enable the project to track progress, measure the impact of interventions, and make adjustments where necessary to ensure the project is achieving its goals. The system will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on the project's performance and make recommendations for improvement.

Output 3.1.1. Disseminate gender-sensitive materials to promote sustainable management of Grand Bereby MPA.

Output 3.1.1 aims to develop and disseminate gender-sensitive knowledge products to facilitate the scaling up and replication of conservation and sustainable management practices for the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. This output recognizes that the success of the project depends on the ability of relevant stakeholders to access and apply knowledge to manage and monitor the MPA effectively. Therefore, it seeks to develop gender-sensitive knowledge products that consider the diverse needs of men and women and vulnerable groups in the target communities.

To achieve this output, the project will engage with knowledge management experts and networks to develop and disseminate a range of gender-sensitive knowledge products, including manuals, guidelines, case studies, and training modules. These products will be disseminated through various channels, including the West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) platform, which aims to facilitate access to knowledge, expertise, and technical assistance for coastal resilience investments. The knowledge products will be developed in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and academia.

The knowledge products will be designed to address specific knowledge gaps and provide practical guidance on the management and monitoring of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. They will also incorporate best practices and lessons learned from the project and other relevant initiatives. Furthermore, the gender-sensitive approach will ensure that the knowledge products consider the different needs, roles, and capacities of men and women in MPA management and monitoring.

The dissemination of the knowledge products will be a crucial aspect of this output, and various strategies will be employed to ensure effective dissemination. These strategies will include workshops, training sessions, conferences, and stakeholder engagement meetings. The knowledge products will also be made available online through various channels, including the WACA platform and project website. The dissemination of the knowledge products will be monitored to ensure that they reach the target audience and are being effectively applied to improve the management and monitoring of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone.

Ultimately, the development and dissemination of gender-sensitive knowledge products will contribute to building the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively manage and monitor the MPA and promote sustainable management practices. It will also support the replication of successful practices in other areas, promoting the long-term sustainability of coastal biodiversity and ecosystems.

Project Activities	Deliverables
1. Conduct a review of existing gender-sensitive knowledge products and identify gaps	Report on review findings and gap analysis
2. Engage relevant stakeholders to develop new gender-sensitive knowledge products	List of new knowledge products
3. Disseminate gender-sensitive knowledge products through various channels, including the WACA knowledge platform	Dissemination plan and report
4. Monitor the use and impact of the gender-sensitive knowledge products	Monitoring report
5. Conduct capacity building activities on the use and application of the gender-sensitive knowledge products	Capacity building report
6. Develop a plan for the continuous updating and improvement of the gender-sensitive knowledge products	Knowledge product improvement plan

Output 3.1.2. Establish a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for Grand Bereby MPA .

Output 3.1.2 aims to establish a comprehensive and gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for the Grand Bereby MPA, as well as to identify and monitor key gender-sensitive indicators. The objective is to ensure that the MPA is effectively monitored and managed in a sustainable and equitable manner, with due consideration given to the needs and perspectives of all stakeholders, including men, women, and vulnerable groups.

To achieve this output, the project will work with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, to develop a comprehensive and gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for the Grand Bereby MPA. This protocol will be designed to collect and analyze data on the performance of the MPA and the broader coastal zone, using a range of gender-sensitive indicators that are relevant to the needs and concerns of different stakeholders.

The monitoring protocol will be developed through a participatory process that involves the engagement of all relevant stakeholders, including men, women, and vulnerable groups. The project will also provide training and capacity building to relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, to ensure that they are able to effectively collect and analyze data using the monitoring protocol.

In addition, the project will identify key gender-sensitive indicators that are relevant to the needs and concerns of different stakeholders, and develop a system for monitoring and reporting on these indicators. These indicators will be aligned with the MPA's objectives and will be used to measure progress towards achieving these objectives.

The project will also work to ensure that the monitoring protocol and gender-sensitive indicators are integrated into the broader coastal zone management framework, including other biodiversity significant areas such as the cross-border site of the mouth of the Cavally river in Tabou (Ivory Coast, Liberia), the site of the Dassioko classified forest, the site of the Azagny national park, and the cross-border site of the Ehotil's islands (Ivory Coast - Ghana).

Ultimately, the establishment of a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol and the identification and monitoring of key gender-sensitive indicators will contribute to the effective and equitable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, and will help to ensure the long-term sustainability of these valuable natural resources.

Some key elements of the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol

The monitoring protocol to be established for Output 3.1.2 will be a comprehensive and gender-sensitive framework for monitoring the performance of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. The protocol will be designed to identify and monitor key gender-sensitive indicators, as well as other important biodiversity indicators, to track progress towards achieving the project's goals.

The monitoring protocol will include the establishment of baseline data for key indicators and the development of a system for regular data collection and analysis. The indicators to be monitored will be gender-sensitive, taking into account the specific needs and contributions of both men and women in the management of the MPA and the broader coastal zone. The monitoring protocol will also be designed to be compatible with existing monitoring systems and will take into account local knowledge and practices.

Safeguards for the development of the monitoring protocol

Safeguard	Description
Gender sensitivity	The monitoring protocol should be developed with due consideration of gender, ensuring that gender-sensitive indicators are identified and monitored to ensure equitable benefits and opportunities for both men and women in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone.
Inclusivity	The development of the monitoring protocol should involve relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and women and youth groups, to ensure their inclusion in the process and the identification of their concerns and needs.
Scientific rigor	The monitoring protocol should be based on scientifically sound methods, approaches, and standards that are appropriate for the specific context and objectives of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone.
Data privacy and confidentiality	The monitoring protocol should ensure the privacy and confidentiality of data collected, with appropriate measures put in place to protect personal information and sensitive data.
Transparency	The monitoring protocol should be transparent, with clear and accessible information provided to stakeholders on the methods, processes, and results of the monitoring activities.
Adaptive management	The monitoring protocol should be designed with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances, including emerging issues, evolving scientific knowledge, and stakeholder feedback, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective over time.

To ensure the effectiveness of the monitoring protocol, relevant stakeholders will be engaged throughout the development process, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities. The protocol will also be aligned with national and international monitoring frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Project Activities	Deliverables
1. Conduct a comprehensive review of existing monitoring protocols and systems in other MPAs and coastal areas	Review report on existing monitoring protocols and systems
2. Conduct stakeholder consultations to identify key indicators for the monitoring protocol	Stakeholder consultation report
3. Develop a draft monitoring protocol that includes gender-sensitive indicators and aligns with existing frameworks and policies	Draft monitoring protocol
4. Test the monitoring protocol in the Grand Bereby MPA and refine as necessary	Testing report and refined monitoring protocol
5. Train relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the monitoring protocol	Training materials and attendance records
6. Establish a system for regular data collection, analysis, and reporting using the monitoring protocol	Established data collection, analysis, and reporting system

Output 3.1.3. Implement a gender-sensitive Project Monitoring and Evaluation System

Output 3.1.3 aims to establish a functional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) that takes into consideration both women and men. This output is essential for ensuring that the project is achieving its objectives and goals in an effective and efficient manner. The PMES will enable the project to track progress, measure the impact of interventions, and make adjustments where necessary to ensure that the project is on track towards achieving its desired outcomes.

To achieve this output, the project will undertake various activities, including the development of a project monitoring and evaluation plan, the establishment of an appropriate data collection and management system, and the identification and definition of key performance indicators (KPIs) that align with the project objectives. The development of gender-sensitive KPIs will be given priority to ensure that the monitoring and evaluation system takes into consideration the different needs, challenges, and opportunities of both women and men.

Some of the major key performance indicators (KPIs) that align with the project objectives

Key Performance Indicator (KPI)	Description
Increase in number of patrolling hours	This measures the amount of time spent patrolling the Grand Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone. An increase in patrolling hours indicates improved management and protection of the MPA and surrounding areas.
Percentage increase in the number of community members participating in MPA management	This measures the level of community engagement in the management of the MPA. An increase in the number of community members participating in MPA management indicates improved community ownership and support for conservation efforts.
Number of alternative income-generating activities (AIGAs) identified and implemented	This measures the number of AIGAs identified and implemented in the communities surrounding the MPA. An increase in the number of AIGAs indicates improved economic opportunities for the local communities and reduced reliance on activities that may harm the MPA.
Percentage of key stakeholders trained	This measures the percentage of relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, who have received training on effective MPA management. An increase in the percentage of stakeholders trained indicates improved capacity and knowledge for sustainable MPA management.
Compliance rate with the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol	This measures the extent to which the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol is being followed by relevant stakeholders. A high compliance rate indicates effective monitoring and management of the MPA, while a low compliance rate may indicate a need for further capacity building and enforcement.
Percentage increase in revenue generated from sustainable tourism activities	This measures the increase in revenue generated from sustainable tourism activities within the MPA and broader coastal zone. An increase in revenue generated from sustainable tourism activities indicates improved economic opportunities and a reduced reliance on activities that may harm the MPA.

The PMES will be designed to enable regular reporting, monitoring, and evaluation of project activities and outcomes. It will also be designed to facilitate learning and sharing of best practices and lessons learned with relevant stakeholders. The establishment of a functional PMES will also ensure that project resources are used efficiently and that any issues or challenges are identified and addressed in a timely manner.

The success of this output will depend on the commitment of relevant stakeholders to the monitoring and evaluation process. The project will engage with relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, to ensure their participation in the development and implementation of the PMES. This will include providing training and capacity building on data collection, management, and analysis to ensure that the system is effectively implemented.

Project Activities	Deliverables
1. Conduct a baseline assessment of existing monitoring and evaluation systems	Baseline report on the existing monitoring and evaluation systems

Project Activities	Deliverables
2. Develop a gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework	Gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation framework
3. Train stakeholders on the use of the monitoring and evaluation framework	Training materials and sessions for stakeholders
4. Develop a data collection and analysis plan	Data collection and analysis plan
5. Establish a monitoring and evaluation database	Functional monitoring and evaluation database
6. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation activities	Monitoring and evaluation reports and recommendations

4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies

The Grand Bereby MPA project aligns with the GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy:

Biodiversity Conservation (GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy):

- The project's primary objective to increase the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) directly aligns with *Objective 1* of the GEF's strategy to support the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and the sustainable use of the global ecosystem.
- The establishment of a multi-sectoral platform to address the loss of marine biodiversity (1.1.1) and the development of climate-resilient management plans for the Grand Beriby MPA (1.1.2) resonate with *Objective 2* focusing on integrated landscape and seascape approaches.

The project also aligns with key international programs and priorities:

Cote d'Ivoire is a signatory to several international agreements related to environmental management and conservation. The current project is aligned with Cote d'Ivoire's commitments to these international treaties and agreements by promoting the sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, promoting climate-smart livelihood options, and supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These agreements include:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): The CBD is a global treaty that aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. As a signatory to the CBD, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to the conservation of its rich biodiversity. The current project aligns with this commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which supports the conservation of biodiversity in the region.

Abidjan Convention: The Abidjan Convention is a regional agreement that aims to promote the sustainable management of the marine and coastal resources in West, Central, and Southern Africa. The convention focuses on a range of issues, including pollution prevention and control, the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, and the promotion of sustainable development in the region. As a signatory to the Abidjan Convention, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to promoting the sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The UNFCCC is a global treaty that aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. As a signatory to the UNFCCC, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to taking action to address climate change. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting climate-smart alternative livelihood options that reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to building the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change.

Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that builds upon the UNFCCC and aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Cote d'Ivoire is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has committed to taking action to address climate change. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting climate-smart alternative livelihood options that reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to building the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change.

Ramsar Convention: The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. As a signatory to the Ramsar Convention, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to the conservation and wise use of its wetlands. The current project aligns with this commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which includes important wetland areas.

Cote d'Ivoire's *National Action Program (NAP)* aims to mitigate the potential risks of renewed armed conflict and prevent future violence, which are critical priorities for the country. The project can contribute to the achievement of these goals by promoting inclusive and gender-sensitive development practices that prioritize the well-being and livelihoods of all community members, including women and girls. The project's emphasis on sustainable land management and alternative livelihoods can help reduce the impact of environmental degradation on local communities and prevent potential conflicts over natural resources. Furthermore, the project's commitment to promoting gender-sensitive participation and decision-making can contribute to the empowerment of women and their increased involvement in peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. Given Cote d'Ivoire's history of political unrest, election-related violence, and armed conflict, the project's focus on promoting sustainable development practices and inclusive participation can help build more resilient and stable communities. Moreover, by aligning with the NAP and other national plans and strategies, the project can contribute to the achievement of the country's broader development objectives and promote sustainable and inclusive development practices.

Cote d'Ivoire's *National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*'s vision is to manage the country's biological diversity sustainably, with the aim of balancing ecosystems, improving the quality of life for current populations, and preserving the heritage of future generations. The plan's six strategic orientations include preserving natural habitats and their functions, conserving genetic and species diversity, strengthening conservation infrastructure, promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, engaging citizens and disseminating knowledge about living organisms, and enhancing national coordination and international cooperation. The Grand Bereby project aligns with the NBSAP's objectives by promoting sustainable land management practices, which can help safeguard natural habitats and the services they provide, and by prioritizing the conservation of biodiversity in the project's design and implementation. Additionally, the project's focus on sustainable tourism and community development can promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources, which aligns with the NBSAP's objectives of promoting the sustainable use of biological diversity and the conservation of genetic and species diversity. The project's emphasis on community engagement and awareness-raising can also contribute to the NBSAP's objective of mobilizing citizens and disseminating knowledge about living organisms. Through engaging and educating local communities about the importance of biodiversity, the project can promote a culture of conservation and environmental stewardship.

5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

This project is designed to address the critical issues of coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, and unsustainable land use practices in Cote d'Ivoire.

Baseline scenario

The Grand Bereby region in Cote d'Ivoire is facing a multitude of environmental challenges that threaten its coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and sustainable development. Understanding the current situation, or the baseline scenario, is crucial in identifying the issues that need to be addressed to promote environmental conservation and socio-economic growth in the region. The baseline scenario provides an essential foundation for measuring the impact and additionality of the Grand Bereby project following its implementation. In this context, the baseline scenario highlights the key challenges related to coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance and institutional capacity, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement.

Coastal degradation: The coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire are facing significant degradation due to a combination of human activities and climate change impacts. Urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion are causing pollution, habitat loss, and erosion, while climate change is causing sea-level rise, increased storm frequency and intensity, and changes in ocean currents, further exacerbating coastal degradation.

Loss of biodiversity: Coastal and marine ecosystems in Cote d'Ivoire harbor a rich biodiversity that is under threat from habitat destruction, overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and climate change. Deforestation and forest degradation, particularly in mangrove areas, are leading to the loss of essential habitats for various species, while overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices are depleting fish stocks and affecting the marine food web.

Unsustainable land use practices: Agriculture is a major driver of environmental degradation in Cote d'Ivoire. Expanding agricultural lands, especially for cocoa and oil palm plantations, have led to deforestation, loss of habitat, and soil degradation. Inefficient agricultural practices, such as

slash-and-burn agriculture and the excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, further contribute to land degradation and pollution of water bodies.

Weak governance and institutional capacity: The current institutional framework for environmental management in Cote d'Ivoire faces challenges related to coordination, enforcement, and monitoring of environmental policies and regulations. Limited technical and financial capacity hampers the effective implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives at various levels, from national to local.

Limited awareness and stakeholder engagement: The general public and local communities in Cote d'Ivoire have limited awareness of the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation. Consequently, stakeholder engagement and participation in conservation and sustainable development initiatives are often inadequate, reducing the effectiveness of such efforts.

The baseline scenario illustrates the current challenges faced in the Grand Bereby region, providing a foundation for the project to demonstrate additionality and measure its impact following implementation. By addressing coastal degradation, biodiversity loss, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement, the Grand Bereby project aims to contribute to the sustainable development and environmental conservation of the region.

Scenario without GEF funding

Without GEF funding, the Grand Bereby region would likely continue to experience increasing coastal degradation, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable land use practices, weak governance, and limited awareness and stakeholder engagement. These factors will further compromise the region's environmental integrity, socio-economic development, and resilience to climate change. The following are some of the potential consequences that may be expected without GEF investment:

Continued coastal degradation: Without the necessary funding and interventions, coastal degradation in Cote d'Ivoire will likely continue at an accelerated pace. Urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural expansion will exacerbate pollution, habitat loss, and erosion, while climate change impacts, such as sea-level rise, increased storm frequency and intensity, and changing ocean currents, will further contribute to the degradation of coastal areas. This could lead to loss of coastal infrastructure, decreased tourism, and increased vulnerability of coastal communities to natural disasters.

Further loss of biodiversity: The ongoing threats to coastal and marine ecosystems will result in the continued loss of biodiversity. Deforestation and forest degradation will lead to the disappearance of essential habitats, while overexploitation of natural resources, pollution, and climate change will put additional pressure on the region's biodiversity[9]. The decline in biodiversity will negatively affect ecosystem services, such as fisheries, climate regulation, and coastal protection, which are vital for the livelihoods and well-being of local communities.

Deterioration of land and water resources: If unsustainable land use practices continue, deforestation, habitat loss, and soil degradation will worsen, leading to decreased agricultural productivity, overfishing and increased food insecurity[10]. Water resources will be further degraded by pollution from agricultural runoff and other human activities, resulting in reduced water quality and availability for human consumption and ecosystem health.

Ineffective governance and institutional capacity: Without GEF funding, efforts to strengthen governance and institutional capacity for environmental management in Cote d'Ivoire may be limited. This could lead to weak enforcement of environmental policies and regulations, allowing for the continuation of unsustainable practices and further environmental degradation. Limited technical and financial capacity will hamper the implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives at all levels, from national to local.

Persistently low awareness and stakeholder engagement: In the absence of GEF-funded interventions, public awareness and stakeholder engagement in coastal and marine ecosystem conservation, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation may remain

low. This could lead to a lack of support and participation in conservation and sustainable development efforts, reducing their overall effectiveness.

Scenario with GEF funding

With GEF funding, the Grand Bereby project will be able to address the challenges identified in the baseline scenario and contribute to the main objective of increasing the management effectiveness of the Grand-B?r?by Marine Protected Area (MPA). The following outcomes can be expected with the implementation of the project:

Improved coastal and marine ecosystem management: GEF funding will support the establishment and effective management of the Grand-B?r?by MPA, leading to the conservation and restoration of coastal and marine habitats. The project will also promote integrated coastal zone management approaches that consider the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change on coastal ecosystems.

Enhanced biodiversity conservation: The Grand Bereby project will implement measures to protect and conserve the rich biodiversity in the region. By supporting the management of the MPA and promoting sustainable practices, the project will help reduce habitat destruction, overexploitation of natural resources, and pollution, ultimately contributing to the preservation of critical ecosystems and species.

Promotion of sustainable land use practices: GEF funding will enable the project to promote sustainable agricultural practices that minimize deforestation, habitat loss, and soil degradation. This will involve supporting alternative livelihoods for local communities and raising awareness about the benefits of sustainable land management.

Strengthened governance and institutional capacity: The project will contribute to building the capacity of relevant institutions and stakeholders involved in the management of the Grand-B?r?by MPA and its surrounding areas. This includes improving coordination, enforcement, and monitoring of environmental policies and regulations, as well as providing technical and financial support for the implementation of conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

Increased awareness and stakeholder engagement: GEF funding will support initiatives to raise public awareness about the importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable land use practices, and the long-term impacts of environmental degradation. The project will also encourage active participation and engagement of local communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for the conservation and sustainable management of the region's resources.

With GEF funding, the Grand Bereby project will contribute to the effective management of the Grand-B?r?by Marine Protected Area and address the challenges outlined in the baseline scenario. This includes improving coastal and marine ecosystem management, enhancing biodiversity conservation, promoting sustainable land use practices, strengthening governance and institutional capacity, and increasing awareness and stakeholder engagement. These efforts will ultimately contribute to the sustainable development and environmental conservation of the Grand Bereby region, enhancing the resilience of local communities to climate change and other environmental threats.

Cost/Benefit	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
Global Benefits	Loss of biodiversity due to habitat destruction, overexploitation, pollution, and climate change.	Implementation of the Grand Bereby MPA, landscape, and seascape management plans to protect habitats and species (Output 1.1.2).	Improved conservation of coastal and marine habitats and species.
	Coastal degradation and vulnerability to climate change impacts.	Establishment of a climate-resilient management framework for the MPA, landscape, and seascape (Output 1.1.2).	Enhanced climate resilience for the MPA and surrounding areas.

Cost/Benefit	Baseline (B)	Alternative (A)	Increment (A-B)
Local Benefits	Pressure on resources due to unsustainable livelihood practices.	Development and implementation of gender-sensitive alternative income-generating activities (Output 2.1.2).	Reduced pressure on resources, improved local livelihoods, and increased revenue.
	Weak governance, institutional capacity, and stakeholder engagement.	Establishment of a multi-sectoral platform, training sessions, and cooperation agreements (Outputs 1.1.1, 1.1.3, 1.1.4).	Strengthened governance and institutional capacity, improved stakeholder engagement.
	Limited awareness and engagement in conservation and sustainable development.	Development and dissemination of gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy material (Output 1.1.5).	Increased awareness, engagement, and participation in MPA conservation efforts.
	Inadequate knowledge platforms and monitoring frameworks for coastal zone management.	Establishment of monitoring protocols, knowledge products, and a functional Project M&E System (Outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3).	Improved management and monitoring of the Grand-Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone.

6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)

The Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) Landscape and Seascape Climate-Resilient Management Plan and Related Business Plans project has the potential to produce several global environmental benefits. The project's primary goal is to conserve the unique marine biodiversity in the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone of Cote d'Ivoire, through the development and implementation of a climate-resilient management plan. By doing so, the project addresses some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing the world today, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and unsustainable fishing practices[11].

Firstly, the project contributes to global climate change mitigation efforts. The project aims to develop and implement climate-resilient management plans, which will help to reduce the impacts of climate change on the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. Climate change has been identified as a significant threat to marine biodiversity, and the project's efforts to mitigate these impacts can help to protect critical marine habitats and ecosystems[12]. Additionally, the project's focus on climate-smart alternative livelihood options can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable land use practices, which can help to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Secondly, the project contributes to the global conservation of marine biodiversity. The Grand Bereby MPA is home to a variety of marine species, some of which are endangered or threatened. The project's focus on developing and implementing a climate-resilient management plan for the MPA can help to protect these species from further decline and promote the recovery of their populations. Furthermore, the project's emphasis on gender-sensitive alternative livelihood options can help to reduce the pressure on the MPA from unsustainable fishing practices and promote sustainable economic activities that can benefit both people and the environment.

Thirdly, the project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources. The Grand Bereby MPA is an important source of livelihood for local communities, who depend on its resources for their subsistence and economic well-being. However, unsustainable fishing practices and other human activities have threatened the sustainability of these resources. The project's focus on developing and implementing a climate-resilient management plan and promoting climate-smart alternative livelihood options can help to promote sustainable use practices that can support the long-term well-being of both people and the environment.

In terms of quantifiable benefits, the project will lead to the creation of a MPA with regional and global significance of 272,375 hectares. This MPA will constitute 0.08% of the national territory of Cote d'Ivoire, and increase the national protected area network from 6.5% to 6.58% . The project will bring a total of 444,029 hectares of landscape under sustainable management to improve sustainable production, thereby increasing the availability and quality of ecosystem services generated. Finally, the project contributes to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, including SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land). The project's focus on climate-resilient management, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable resource use aligns with the objectives of these SDGs, and its implementation can contribute to their achievement.

7) Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

Innovativeness

The project is innovative in its comprehensive and integrated approach to marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The project's innovativeness lies in its unique blend of strategies, which include the establishment of a marine protected area (MPA), the promotion of sustainable livelihoods, the fostering of stakeholder engagement, and the implementation of a knowledge management system.

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Establishment and Management: The project's approach to establishing and managing the Grand-Bereby MPA is innovative in its emphasis on connectivity and comprehensive management. The MPA, along with identified Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) and marine corridors, will form a connected network of protected areas. This innovative approach will enhance the resilience of marine ecosystems, allowing for the movement of species between different habitats and serving as a refuge in the face of potential climate change events.

Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods: The project's focus on promoting sustainable livelihoods is another innovative aspect. By developing alternative income-generating activities that rely on the sustainable use of marine resources, the project aims to reduce the reliance of local communities on destructive and unsustainable practices. This approach not only ensures the economic sustainability of local communities but also contributes to the long-term conservation of the Grand-Bereby MPA.

Stakeholder Engagement: The project's stakeholder engagement strategy is also innovative. By putting local producers, private sectors, and civil society organizations at the center of the delivery mechanism of the income-generating activities, the project ensures the sustainability and efficient development of the process. This inclusive and participatory approach fosters ownership and buy-in from local

communities and stakeholders, which is crucial for the long-term success and sustainability of the project.

Knowledge Management System: The project's knowledge management system is another innovative feature. The project will establish a research program to fill knowledge gaps related to the biology, ecology, and distribution of biodiversity species occurring on the Grand Bereby continental shelf. The data gathered will feed into global databases and prioritize conservation efforts. This approach will improve the understanding of marine biodiversity and its ecological interactions, thereby informing the development of effective management strategies for the Grand-Bereby MPA.

Future-Proofing Conservation Efforts: The project's innovative approach also extends to its forward-looking strategies. Recognizing the potential impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems, the project incorporates climate change mitigation and adaptation measures into its MPA management plan. This forward-thinking approach ensures that the conservation efforts are resilient and adaptable to future changes in the marine environment.

The project's innovativeness lies in its integrated and comprehensive approach to marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. By combining MPA establishment and management, promotion of sustainable livelihoods, stakeholder engagement, and a knowledge management system, the project offers a unique and effective approach to conserving the marine biodiversity of Grand-Bereby. This innovative approach has the potential to serve as a model for other marine conservation efforts in Cote d'Ivoire and beyond.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the "Strengthening the Sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby" project is of utmost importance to ensure the long-term protection and conservation of the marine and coastal habitats in the area. The project aims to develop mechanisms for financial sustainability by engaging with governments, private sector stakeholders, and local communities whose livelihoods depend on natural resources. By mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, the project seeks to ensure that economic development strategies are integrated with sustainable management of natural resources. The stakeholders' platform envisioned in the project will also contribute to the long-term sustainability of the project initiatives by promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing among stakeholders. Additionally, the project's advocacy component, which is based on an economic valuation of ecosystem services, aims to mobilize the government's commitment to grant a more substantial budget, thereby ensuring the sustainability of the project in the long run. The project's focus on financial and ecological sustainability is essential to ensure that the Grand-Bereby MPA is effectively managed and conserved for future generations.

Environmental sustainability

The current project is an important step towards achieving environmental sustainability in the coastal zone of Cote d'Ivoire. The project recognizes that environmental sustainability is essential for the long-term socio-economic development of coastal communities in the area, as well as for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

One key way that the project will contribute to environmental sustainability is by improving the management and protection of marine biodiversity and its habitats. This will involve the establishment of a comprehensive marine protected area (MPA) management plan that considers the needs and

interests of local communities, while also ensuring the conservation of critical marine biodiversity. The project will support the development of technical and institutional capacities within government institutions to implement policies and manage the MPA. The capacity building will be done in collaboration with local communities and stakeholders, thus ensuring a participatory approach that takes into account local needs, knowledge and practices. By providing the necessary tools and technical knowledge, the project aims to build the capacity of stakeholders to manage the marine and coastal resources sustainably, thereby ensuring environmental sustainability.

Another way that the project will contribute to environmental sustainability is by promoting sustainable/nature-based livelihoods. The project will work to increase the awareness of stakeholders about the importance of marine biodiversity and ecosystem services. This will be achieved by developing and implementing a robust communication strategy that provides stakeholders with knowledge on the value of marine biodiversity and its habitats, its ecosystem services and lessons on best practices. The project will also work to build the capacity of local communities in sustainable management of natural resources to ensure environmental sustainability of economic development in the coastal marine area. By promoting sustainable/nature-based livelihoods, the project aims to reduce the pressure on the marine and coastal resources, thereby ensuring their long-term sustainability.

The project will also work to address knowledge management gaps and improve understanding among stakeholders of the ecological interactions in the marine and coastal habitats. By establishing a research program to fill knowledge gaps related to the biology, ecology, and distribution of biodiversity species occurring on the Grand Bereby continental shelf, the project aims to improve the understanding of marine biodiversity and its ecological interactions. The long-term trends of species population, accurate identification of feeding grounds, abundance, and life stages will also be critical information gathered to feed global databases and prioritize conservation efforts. The project will support the development of robust data management systems and promote data sharing to enhance knowledge and understanding of the marine and coastal habitats.

Social sustainability

The project will contribute to social sustainability in several ways. First and foremost, the project aims to engage with local communities and relevant stakeholders to ensure their participation and ownership in the management of the Grand Bereby MPA. By promoting community-based management approaches, the project can enhance the social sustainability of the MPA and contribute to the overall well-being of local communities.

Furthermore, the project aims to develop mechanisms to ensure financial sustainability for the Grand-Bereby MPA. In doing so, the project can contribute to the economic sustainability of local communities, providing them with a source of income and opportunities for sustainable/nature-based livelihoods. The project will engage with private sector stakeholders and businesses in crafting financial mechanisms for long-term sustainability. This will not only provide economic benefits but also create job opportunities for local communities, contributing to the social sustainability of the project.

Another way the project will contribute to social sustainability is through capacity building and awareness-raising activities. The project will work towards developing the capacity of local communities and relevant stakeholders in MPA management, sustainable resource use, and financial

planning. This will provide them with the necessary skills to participate effectively in decision-making processes and ensure the social sustainability of the project.

Finally, the project aims to establish a stakeholder platform that will facilitate collaboration and dialogue between different governance levels, including the government, civil society organizations, and local communities. This will help to ensure that the project interventions are socially sustainable and that the views and concerns of different stakeholders are taken into account.

Economic sustainability

The project will contribute to economic sustainability by promoting the development of sustainable livelihoods, integrating biodiversity conservation into economic development planning, and building the capacity of local communities and stakeholders in sustainable natural resource management and financial planning. By doing so, the project can help ensure that economic development in the coastal zone is carried out in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable.

First, the project will support the development of sustainable and nature-based livelihoods for local communities. This will include promoting sustainable fishing practices, aquaculture, and ecotourism. By creating alternative livelihoods that rely on the sustainable use of marine resources, the project can help reduce the reliance of communities on destructive and unsustainable practices, such as overfishing and illegal logging.

Second, the project will promote the integration of biodiversity conservation into economic development planning. This will help to ensure that economic development activities in the coastal zone are carried out in a sustainable and ecologically responsible manner. The project will work with government and private sector stakeholders to develop financial mechanisms that support long-term sustainability, including sustainable financing mechanisms for the Grand-Bereby MPA.

Third, the project will contribute to building the capacity of local communities and stakeholders in sustainable natural resource management and financial planning. By developing the skills and knowledge of local communities, the project can help ensure that economic development activities are carried out in a sustainable and ecologically responsible manner, while also contributing to the creation of new economic opportunities.

Financial sustainability

Ensuring the financial sustainability of the Grand-Bereby MPA project is paramount to its long-term success and the realization of its conservation and development objectives. Financial sustainability refers to the ability of the project to maintain and manage its financial resources in a way that ensures the continuity of project activities, even after the initial funding period has ended. Here's how the project aims to achieve this:

1. **Diversified Funding Sources:** The project will seek to diversify its funding sources to reduce dependency on a single donor or revenue stream. This includes exploring opportunities for public-private partnerships, grants from international conservation organizations, and contributions from the national government and regional bodies.
2. **Revenue Generation through Ecotourism:** By promoting and developing ecotourism in the Grand-Bereby MPA, the project can generate a consistent revenue stream. Entrance fees, guided tours, and other ecotourism-related activities can contribute to the project's financial resources.

3. *Community-based Financing Mechanisms:* Engaging local communities in revenue-generating activities, such as sustainable fisheries and handicrafts related to biodiversity, can create a self-sustaining financial mechanism. A portion of the profits from these activities can be reinvested into the project.
4. *Capacity Building for Financial Management:* Training local stakeholders in financial management, budgeting, and financial reporting ensures that funds are used efficiently and transparently. This not only builds trust among donors and partners but also ensures that financial resources are optimized.
5. *Leveraging Carbon Credits:* Given the project's potential contribution to carbon sequestration, especially if mangrove restoration is involved, there's an opportunity to leverage carbon credits and engage in the carbon market, providing an additional revenue stream.
6. *Engaging the Private Sector:* Collaborations with the private sector, especially those industries that rely on marine resources or are based in the coastal zone, can lead to corporate social responsibility (CSR) contributions or joint ventures that support the project's objectives.
7. *Regular Financial Reviews:* Periodic financial reviews and audits will be conducted to ensure that funds are being used efficiently and to identify any potential financial challenges early on, allowing for timely interventions.
8. *Building Strong Partnerships:* By forging strong partnerships with NGOs, governmental bodies, and international organizations, the project can tap into additional funding opportunities, technical assistance, and in-kind contributions that can bolster its financial position.

Financial sustainability is not just about securing funds but efficiently managing and growing them to ensure the project's longevity. By adopting a multifaceted approach that combines revenue generation, capacity building, diversified funding sources, and rigorous financial management practices, the Grand-Bereby MPA project can achieve its conservation and development goals in a financially sustainable manner.

Potential for scaling up

The project's design is rooted in a comprehensive approach that integrates biodiversity conservation, stakeholder engagement, and sustainable economic development. This approach positions the project as a potential blueprint for the establishment of a Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, not only in Cote d'Ivoire but also in broader regional contexts.

? *Stakeholder Engagement and Participatory Decision-making:* Central to the project's design is the deep involvement of stakeholders. The methodologies and frameworks developed for stakeholder engagement in this project can be directly applied to the establishment of an Future MPA Network. By ensuring that local communities, NGOs, and other stakeholders are actively involved in decision-making processes, the project paves the way for a more inclusive and effective Future MPA Network.

? *Capacity Building at the Local Level:* The project's emphasis on training, education, and community involvement in MPA management is a cornerstone for the future establishment of an Future MPA Network. By equipping local communities with the skills and knowledge to manage and protect their marine resources, the project ensures that future MPAs within the network have a strong foundation of local expertise and support.

? *Knowledge Management and Research:* The project's commitment to establishing a robust knowledge management system and research program addresses critical knowledge gaps related to marine and coastal biodiversity. This research will be instrumental in guiding the establishment of new

MPAs, ensuring they are located in areas of high biodiversity value and are managed based on the latest scientific knowledge.

? *Sustainable Economic Development*: The project's strategies for sustainable economic development, particularly its engagement with the private sector to develop financial mechanisms, are crucial for the long-term viability of an Future MPA Network. These mechanisms can be replicated across the network to ensure each MPA has the resources it needs to function effectively.

? *Community Involvement and Equitable Benefit Sharing*: The project's design emphasizes the equitable sharing of the benefits of sustainable resource use. This focus ensures that local communities see tangible benefits from MPAs, fostering local support for the establishment and expansion of the Future MPA Network.

? *Research Program Insights*: The data collected on marine biodiversity in the Grand Bereby region will be invaluable for the establishment of an Future MPA Network. Understanding species distributions, feeding grounds, and population trends will guide the placement and management of future MPAs.

? *Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange*: The project's design includes the creation of a stakeholder platform, promoting regional cooperation and knowledge sharing. This platform can serve as the foundation for a regional Future MPA Network, facilitating collaboration between different MPAs and ensuring best practices are shared and adopted widely.

[1] Abe, Jacques (2023): *Institutional analysis, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[2] Abe, Jacques (2023): *Institutional analysis, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[3] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

[4] Djakour?, Sandrine (2023), *Socioeconomic, gender analysis, and alternative livelihood*. In the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area. GEF MSP, ID: 11007. Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire.

[5] Djakour?, Sandrine (2023), *Socioeconomic, gender analysis, and alternative livelihood*. In the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area. GEF MSP, ID: 11007. Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire.

[6] Djakour?, Sandrine (2023) *Socioeconomic, gender analysis, and alternative livelihood*. In the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area. GEF MSP, ID: 11007. Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire.

[7] External demand takes into account sales to other regions of the country, and also outside Cote d'Ivoire.

[8] Djakour?, Sandrine (2023) *Socioeconomic, gender analysis, and alternative livelihood*. In the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area. GEF MSP, ID: 11007. Abidjan - Cote d'Ivoire.

[9] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

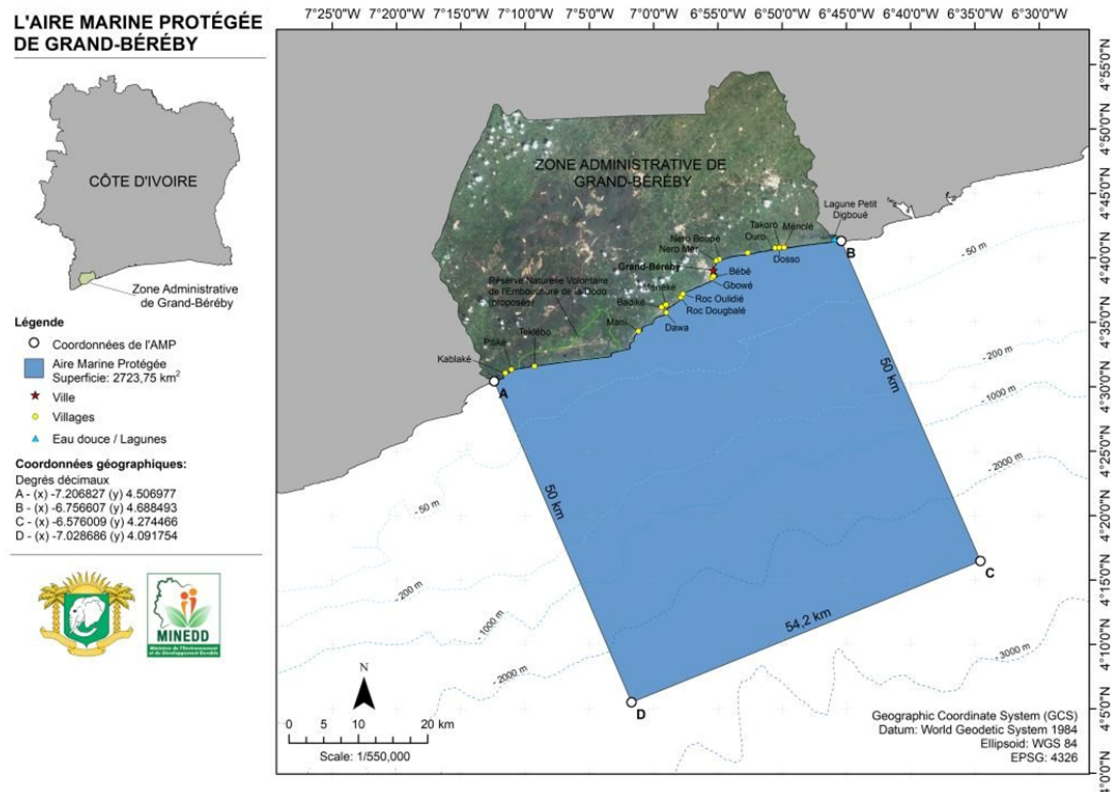
[10] Ibid: N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023).

[11] N?Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Bereby Environment context*. In: The Grand Bereby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, C?te d'Ivoire.

[12] Ibid: N?Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023).

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.



1c. Child Project?

If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above, please explain why:

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

During the project preparation phase, a stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify key stakeholders in the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) and surrounding coastal zone. These consultations led to the analysis of institutional/capacity building and awareness raising[1]; environmental[2]; as well as socioeconomic and gender contexts[3] associated with the implementation of this project. The analysis assessed their interests in the project and defined their potential role in the project implementation. Section 2.5 (Stakeholder mapping and analysis) provides a detailed account of the major categories of stakeholders identified, including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and private sector entities, and outlines the level of involvement envisaged for each stakeholder group in the project.

A series of consultations were held with the key stakeholders at the national and local levels to discuss different aspects of project design that were relevant to the Grand Bereby MPA and the surrounding coastal zone. These included: (i) bilateral discussions to gather information on the current project baseline, consult on proposed project interventions and confirm the political, operational, and financial commitment of project partners (including securing co-financing commitments); (ii) a consultative workshop with key stakeholders to present the project, identify opportunities for synergies and collaboration, and gather stakeholder inputs; (iii) a validation workshop to present the revised project outputs, activities, budget, and implementation arrangements to the key agencies involved; and (iv) circulation of the project documentation for review and comments.

The project activities are designed to promote stakeholder participation in the implementation of project activities and decision-making processes. This includes active engagement with local communities, traditional authorities, and women's groups to ensure their participation in project activities, awareness, and capacity building. As explained in Section 3.11 (Environmental and social safeguards), the project activities have been designed to address some of the gender-related issues in the Grand Bereby MPA and the surrounding coastal zone by (a) ensuring adequate representation of women in the project implementation and governance bodies, and (b) valuing the breadth and depth of traditional knowledge of environment and biodiversity resources by both women and men.

Through these consultations and engagement activities, the project seeks to build and strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. The project recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation and engagement in achieving the project objectives, particularly in terms of sustainable management and conservation of the marine and coastal resources in the region. The engagement process helped to build trust and foster collaboration among the stakeholders, and ensured that their concerns and aspirations were incorporated into the project design. It also helped to identify potential risks and challenges that could arise during project implementation and to develop strategies to mitigate them.

Stakeholders	Mandates
The Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD)	It is responsible for the implementation and follow-up of government policy on the protection of the environment, improvement of the framework of life and sustainable development.

The Ministry of Water and Forests	It is responsible for ensuring the preservation of the country's water resources through the implementation of Law No. 98-755 of 23 December 1998 on the water code, in conjunction with the ministries concerned.
The Ministry of health, public hygiene and Universal Health Coverage	it is among others, responsible for developing and implementing incentive measures and of encouraging or coercive measures for the population and leaders of local authorities, in the achievement of public hygiene operations
The Ministry of Hydraulics	It is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the Government's Hydraulics policy.
Ministry of Planning and Development	It has the responsibility for the Planning, programming and implementation of land use planning and regionalization actions, in particular through land use planning support funds
The Ministry for Animal and Fisheries Resources	It has the responsibility for Planning, promotion and development of animal production, aquaculture and fisheries.
The Ministry of Tourism and Leisure	It is responsible for implementing the government's tourism policy and for making Cote d'Ivoire one of the top-five leisure tourism destinations in Africa by 2025. In September 2018 the government launched its new tourism development strategy for the 2018-25 period. The policy, known as Sublime Cote d'Ivoire, aims to make tourism one of the top-three drivers of the economy through contributing 7-8% to GDP and directly employing some 600,000 people by 2025
The Ministry of Mines, Petroleum Resources and Energy	It is the technical and administrative body tasked with the implementation of the Government's mining policy
Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR)	It is state structure attached to the Ministry of Water and Forests. Its mission is to reconstruct the plant cover. It is therefore responsible for the management and reforestation of gazetted forests and public lands entrusted to it by the forest administration under general or special conventions. It is also expected to design and implement management models to enable the implementation of the Ivorian Forest Master Plan, passed in 1988, to have all maintenance work carried out and to participate actively in restoration, reforestation, and forest estate monitoring.
Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR)	It is responsible for the management of parks and reserves in the national territory under the supervision of MINEDD.
The National Environment Agency (ANDE)	Its mission is the execution of the projects and environmental programs in Cote d'Ivoire
The Ivorian Anti-Pollution Centre (CIAPOL)	It is the responsible authority for marine pollution. The Centre is under the jurisdiction of the Ministere de l'Environnement. Among the duties of CIAPOL is the implementation of the Plan POLLUMAR, the national contingency plan.
Local or Territorial Communities	Local governments play a vital role in environmental management. It is the Region and the Commune, endowed with legal personality and financial autonomy. In accordance with the law no. 2003-208 of July 07, 2003 on the transfer and distribution of competencies to the territorial collectivities, these communities are charged, each on its territory, with the elaboration, implementation, and follow-up of action plans for environment and natural resource management, creation, management of forests, parks, natural sites and protected areas, water management and fight against bushfires

Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs)	IPLCs play a crucial role in protecting nature and biodiversity globally. They are effective custodians of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
The NGO-OPEIF Afrique (Organization for the Promotion of Women's Industrial Entrepreneurship in Africa)	It is an NGO created in 1999 that seeks to promote women's entrepreneurship.
The Cooperative des Mareyeuses et Transformatrices des Produits Halieutiques d'Abidjan (CMATPHA)	it is a group of women engaged in post-harvest fishing activities
The Rural Land Agency (AFOR)	It is the main agency for the operational management of rural land. As such, it is responsible among other things to implement the actions of securing rural land, including the conclusion of conventions; mobilize resources for the implementation of actions to secure the rural land domain, and to advise the public authorities on all matters related to the management of rural land.
The Rural Land Commission (CFR)	It is an inter-sectoral body for monitoring the rural land situation. This commission constitutes a permanent advisory body on rural land and its tasks (among others) is to monitor the implementation of law n ° 98-750 of 23 December 1998 relating to the rural land domain.
The Committee for the Management of Rural Land Tenure (CGFR)	It is Rural Land Management Committee: a rural land management body, which deliberates, in the form of an assent, on the validation of official investigations of customary land rights; objections or claims arising during the land registration procedures of the Domaine Foncier Rural concession. In addition, its deliberates, in the form of simple opinions, on the land implications of the various rural development projects.
The Land Management Committee	The Land Management Committee (CGFR) and the Village Rural Land Management Committee are bodies in charge of certifying the continued and peaceful existence of land rights and their approval during public inquiries.
The Order of Private Surveyors	They are in charge of the realization of the plans of delimitation of the parcels and constitution of the technical files of attachment of the plans to the geodetic network of the Ivorian cadaster constitutes a major actor in the procedure of land security.
The Traditional Chiefdom,	Although not an official rural land management body, is, they are however, actively involved in the process of certifying rural land rights as custodians of customary customs for the clarification of customary rights over rural plots and the settlement of land disputes.
Abidjan Convention	It is the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa Region. The Secretariat is facilitating an additional protocol on MPA for adoption and n.m.-bnmkcx bnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnfc ratification by its 22 my??????bembers states hopefully in 2023. Also, a guide for the establishment of MPAs is being developed.

Regional Institutions/International Institutions/Development Partners	The following institutions have been consulted at the PIF stage: - GRID-Arendal and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat: Implementing partners of the Mami Wata Project ? Enhancing Marine Management in West Africa through Training and Application (- FAO/CFI project funded by GEF; - The WB WACA project; - IUCN with the GEF 7 project on marine spatial planning; - EU with the PESCAO project; - ECOWAS)
Academic Institution: Université d'Abidjan	They have a strong track record on ecology and marine science.
Private Sector: (Tourism tour operators, Oil and mining companies, fishing industries, etc.)	Their activities potentially have impacts on coastal resources
Gender-related governmental agencies/CSO and gender Expert	Define and guide gender related policies development and implementation

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

1. Introduction

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is an integral component of the Grand-Béréby MPA project. Its purpose is to outline a structured approach for engaging a diverse range of stakeholders who are directly or indirectly impacted by the project or who have a vested interest in its outcomes. The SEP is designed to ensure that all stakeholders are not just informed but actively involved in the project, from planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation. The importance of the SEP lies in its ability to foster transparent, inclusive, and effective communication with all stakeholder groups. This includes local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and international partners. By engaging stakeholders meaningfully, the SEP aims to build strong relationships, garner widespread support, and address potential concerns or conflicts proactively. The SEP is therefore crucial for ensuring that the project aligns with the needs and aspirations of local communities, while also meeting national and international conservation goals. It recognizes the critical role of stakeholders in the project's success and aims to integrate their knowledge, expertise, and perspectives into the project's fabric. In doing so, the SEP contributes significantly to the project's sustainability, effectiveness, and long-term impact.

2. Identification of Stakeholders and Their Interests

In the development and implementation of the Grand-Béréby Marine Protected Area (MPA) project, identifying and understanding the interests of various stakeholders is crucial. These stakeholders (see Stakeholder Participation table) both direct and indirect play pivotal roles and have unique perspectives and needs that are essential to the project's success. The following sections outline the primary stakeholders involved in the project, detailing their specific roles and interests. This identification not only aids in tailoring engagement strategies but also ensures that the needs and expectations of all relevant parties are considered and addressed throughout the project lifecycle.

Direct Stakeholders:

- **Ministries and Government Agencies** (see Stakeholder Participation table):
- **Roles:** Key roles include policy formulation, regulation, and oversight of project activities.

- **Interests in Environmental Conservation:** These entities are primarily interested in ensuring that the project aligns with national and regional environmental goals and contributes to broader conservation efforts.
- **Policy Alignment:** Their involvement is crucial for aligning project activities with existing environmental, economic, and social policies.
- **Local Communities** (see Stakeholder Participation table):
 - **Interests in Sustainable Livelihoods:** Local communities are primarily concerned with how the project will impact their livelihoods, particularly in terms of job opportunities, income generation, and maintaining sustainable practices.
 - **Conservation:** There is a vested interest in preserving the environment, which is integral to their way of life.
 - **Direct Impacts of the Project:** The communities are keenly aware of the direct impacts the project will have on their daily lives and their immediate environment.
- **Women's Groups** (see Stakeholder Participation table):
 - **Focus on Gender-Specific Needs:** These groups are focused on ensuring that the project addresses the unique needs and roles of women in the community, particularly in terms of participation, benefit-sharing, and decision-making.
 - **Roles in Natural Resource Management:** They are interested in enhancing women's roles in managing natural resources sustainably and ensuring that their contributions are recognized and valued.

Indirect Stakeholders:

- **NGOs, Academic Institutions, Regional Partners** (see Stakeholder Participation table):
 - **Technical Expertise:** These groups offer specialized knowledge and technical expertise that can enhance various aspects of the project.
 - **Research:** Academic institutions, in particular, are interested in research opportunities that the project might offer.
 - **Support Roles:** Both NGOs and regional partners play supportive roles, offering guidance, resources, and advocacy for the project.
- **Private Sector** (see Stakeholder Participation table):
 - **Investment Interests:** Companies may be interested in investing in the project or in associated development opportunities.
 - **Sustainable Practice Adoption:** The private sector is increasingly interested in adopting sustainable practices, both as part of corporate responsibility and in response to consumer demand.
 - **CSR Initiatives:** Many companies seek to engage in corporate social responsibility initiatives that align with projects like the Grand-Bany MPA, particularly those that have positive environmental and social impacts.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Steps for Meaningful Consultation

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Grand-Bany MPA project in Cote d'Ivoire incorporates tailored methods and steps to ensure meaningful consultation and participation of all stakeholders specific to the region.

Information Dissemination

Effective information dissemination is crucial to keep all stakeholders informed and engaged. In Grand-B?

- *Localized Approaches:* Understanding the pivotal role of community-centric communication in Grand-B?

- *Digital Platforms:* To reach a broader audience, including younger demographics and stakeholders outside the immediate geographic area, we will maintain an active online presence. This includes a project website, regularly updated social media channels, and email newsletters. These digital platforms will provide detailed information about project progress, upcoming consultations, and ways to get involved.

Consultation Meetings

Regular consultation meetings will be a cornerstone of our engagement strategy, providing a platform for open dialogue and feedback.

- *Meeting Structure:* These meetings will be held in accessible locations within the Grand-B?

- *Inclusivity:* Special emphasis will be placed on inclusivity, ensuring that representatives from all segments of the local community, including women's groups like the Association des Femmes de Grand B?

- *Frequency and Format:* Meetings will be held quarterly, with a flexible format that includes open forums, focused group discussions, and information sessions. Each meeting will have a clear agenda, with time allocated for stakeholders to express their views and concerns.

Workshops and Training

Capacity-building through workshops and training is vital, particularly for local communities and women's groups in Grand-B?

- *Local Community Focus:* Workshops for local communities will cover sustainable fishing practices, environmental conservation techniques, and alternative livelihood options. These sessions aim to empower locals with the skills and knowledge needed for sustainable management of their natural resources.

- *Empowering Women:* Recognizing the crucial role of women in resource management and community development, special workshops will be organized for women's groups. These will focus on leadership skills, sustainable livelihoods, and active participation in conservation efforts. Training will be conducted in collaboration with local women's organizations to ensure relevance and effectiveness.

Grievance Mechanism: The project will establish at its first year the grievance mechanism which will be presented and discussed during the inception the most effective way to address complaints and concerns of stakeholders particularly the Local Communities

4. Roles and Responsibilities for Implementing the SEP

For the successful implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Grand-B?

Project Team Members

- **Communication Lead:** Oversees the overall strategy for stakeholder communication and information dissemination. Responsible for coordinating with local radio stations, managing digital platforms, and ensuring that all communication is clear, consistent, and culturally appropriate.
- **Community Liaison Officers:** Serve as the primary point of contact between the project team and the local communities. They are responsible for organizing community meetings, facilitating workshops, and ensuring that local perspectives are accurately represented in project discussions.
- **Training and Capacity Building Coordinators:** Develop and implement workshops and training sessions, focusing on both the broader community and specific groups such as women's organizations. They collaborate with local experts and stakeholders to ensure training relevance and effectiveness.

Government Partners

- **Ministry Representatives (Environment, Fisheries, Tourism, etc.):** Provide policy guidance, technical expertise, and ensure alignment of project activities with national priorities. They play a crucial role in integrating the project within broader governmental frameworks and initiatives.
- **Local Government Officials:** Facilitate engagement with local administrative structures and ensure that local regulations and protocols are observed. They also assist in mobilizing local resources and providing logistical support for community meetings and workshops.

Other Key Stakeholders

- **NGOs and Academic Institutions:** Offer technical expertise, conduct research, and support project implementation. They also play a role in monitoring project impacts and outcomes, particularly regarding environmental and social aspects.
- **Private Sector Entities:** Engage in CSR activities, provide funding or in-kind support for specific project components, and contribute to sustainable practice initiatives within the project framework.
- **Women's and Community Groups:** Actively participate in decision-making processes, provide feedback on project activities, and help disseminate information within their networks.

5. Timing of Engagement Throughout the Project Cycle

The timing of stakeholder engagement for the Grand-Bany MPA project is planned to ensure continuous and meaningful involvement of various stakeholder groups throughout the project cycle. Below is a detailed timeline indicating the phases of engagement for different stakeholders:

Initial Phase (Project Inception and Planning) Months 1-3: (i) Initial meetings with key government partners, including ministries and local government officials, to outline project objectives and gather initial input. (ii) Introduction meetings with local community leaders and representatives of women's groups to discuss the project overview and their involvement.

Implementation Phase (Project Execution) Months 4-6: (i) Consultation meetings with NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector for technical expertise and potential collaborations. (ii) Workshops with local communities and women's groups to assess needs and expectations, and to discuss potential impacts. **Months 7-12:** (i) Ongoing monthly community meetings for regular updates and feedback. (ii) Quarterly stakeholder workshops for more in-depth discussion on project progress, issues, and adjustments. (iii) Bi-annual meetings with government partners to align project activities with national policies and to report on progress.

Monitoring Phase (Evaluation and Feedback) Year 2 Onwards: (i) Continuous monitoring and evaluation with feedback mechanisms in place for all stakeholder groups. (ii) Semi-annual review meetings with all stakeholder groups to discuss project outcomes, challenges, and future plans. (iii) Annual public forums to present project achievements, challenges, and future directions to the broader community and stakeholders. (iv) Based on feedback and evaluations, adapt engagement strategies and project activities as necessary. (v) Explore opportunities for scaling successful initiatives with the

involvement of local communities, government partners, and private sector stakeholders. (vi) Regular strategic meetings with key stakeholders to discuss long-term goals and sustainability plans.

7. Key Indicators of Stakeholder Engagement and Monitoring Mechanism

To assess the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement in the Grand-Bany MPA project, specific key performance indicators (KPIs) are established. These indicators will enable the project team to monitor engagement activities, evaluate their impact, and make necessary adjustments for improvement. Below are the chosen indicators along with the procedures for monitoring and reporting:

Key Performance Indicators for stakeholder engagement in the Grand-Bany MPA project

Indicator	Description	Target
Stakeholder meeting attendance and diversity	This indicator measures the number and diversity of participants in various stakeholder engagement activities, such as community meetings, workshops, and consultations.	Achieve consistent and broad participation across all stakeholder groups, with particular emphasis on ensuring representation from marginalized and underrepresented communities, including women's groups.
Stakeholder feedback implementation rate	This KPI assesses how effectively stakeholder feedback is collected, reviewed, and integrated into project activities.	Aim for a high percentage of stakeholder suggestions and concerns to be addressed or incorporated into project planning and execution.
Capacity building outcome success	This indicator evaluates the effectiveness of training and capacity-building workshops based on participant feedback and the application of new skills or knowledge.	Achieve positive feedback from participants and observable application of skills in community and project activities, especially in sustainable practices and leadership roles.

Monitoring and Reporting Procedures

Data Collection: Information on stakeholder engagement activities will be regularly collected through attendance records, meeting minutes, feedback forms, and workshop evaluations.

Analysis and Review: The project team will analyze this data on a quarterly basis to assess progress against the established KPIs. This will include reviewing the diversity and frequency of stakeholder participation, the nature and implementation of feedback received, and the outcomes of capacity-building initiatives.

Reporting: A stakeholder engagement report will be compiled semi-annually, detailing the findings from the analysis and offering insights into the effectiveness of the engagement strategies. This report will be shared with key project stakeholders, including funding bodies and government partners, to maintain transparency and accountability.

Adjustments and Improvements: Based on the report findings, the project team will make any necessary adjustments to the stakeholder engagement plan to enhance its effectiveness. This iterative process ensures that stakeholder engagement remains dynamic and responsive to the needs and feedback of all involved parties.

8. Documentation and Reporting

For the Grand-Béréby MPA project, a comprehensive strategy for documenting and reporting on stakeholder engagement activities is essential. This strategy ensures transparency, accountability, and facilitates the sharing of information with all stakeholders and the public.

Documentation Strategy

- **Record Keeping:** All stakeholder engagement activities, including community meetings, workshops, training sessions, and consultation meetings, will be systematically documented. This documentation will include attendee lists, meeting minutes, summaries of discussions, outcomes of workshops, and feedback received.
- **Photographic and Video Documentation:** Where appropriate, photographic and video records of engagement activities will be made to provide a visual representation of the project's stakeholder involvement. Care will be taken to respect the privacy and cultural sensitivities of participants in these visual records.
- **Feedback and Grievance Documentation:** All feedback and grievances received through various channels (feedback boxes, online portals, community meetings) will be recorded, along with the responses and resolutions provided by the project team.

Reporting Strategy

- **Regular Reports:** The project will produce regular reports summarizing the stakeholder engagement activities, their outcomes, and the status of the project's engagement KPIs. These reports will be generated on a semi-annual basis.
- **Accessibility and Dissemination:** Reports will be made accessible to stakeholders and the public in multiple formats. A summary of the reports will be available on the project website, and physical copies will be distributed during community meetings. Efforts will be made to provide these reports in both French and relevant local languages to ensure broader accessibility.
- **Online Platform:** The project website will serve as a central repository for all engagement-related documentation and reports. This platform will be regularly updated and will allow stakeholders to access historical and current information on engagement activities.
- **Public Forums:** Annual public forums will be held to present the progress of the project and its stakeholder engagement activities. These forums will serve as an opportunity for direct interaction with a broader audience and will facilitate transparency and public accountability.

[1] Abe, Jacques (2023): *Institutional analysis, capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy*. In: The Grand Béréby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[2] N'Guessan, K. Benjamin (2023): *National and Grand-Béréby Environment context*. In: The Grand Béréby marine protected area project; MSP, GEF ID: 11007. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

[3] Djakouré, Sandrine (2023), *Socioeconomic, gender analysis, and alternative livelihood*. In the Grand-Béréby Marine Protected Area. GEF MSP, ID: 11007. Abidjan - Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) represents a structured approach to ensure transparent, constructive, and inclusive communication with all stakeholders associated with the Grand-Bay Marine Protected Area (MPA) project. Acknowledging the critical role of local communities, partnering institutions, and various stakeholders in the project's success, the plan provides a detailed framework for engagement. This framework delineates methods tailored to cater to diverse stakeholder requirements, guarantees that stakeholder perspectives are central to project decisions, and adheres to the stringent standards established by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for stakeholder engagement as well as environmental and social safeguards. As the Grand-Bay MPA project progresses, the SEP will act as an essential tool, ensuring all stakeholders remain informed, valued, and actively involved.

Objectives of the SEP include:

- ? Identify and prioritize stakeholders.
- ? Facilitate open communication and constructive relations.
- ? Ensure stakeholders are informed, consulted, and their concerns are addressed.
- ? Promote and ensure the use of a gender-responsive approach throughout.

Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Direct stakeholders:

- ? Local communities within the MPA
- ? Local and national government agencies related to marine and environmental protection.
- ? MPA management team

Indirect stakeholders:

- ? NGOs working on environmental conservation in the region.
- ? Fishermen groups
- ? Tourism industry representatives
- ? Researchers and academia
- ? Women's groups and other marginalized community representatives

Engagement Methods

1. Information Dissemination

? Local Radio:

- ? Objective: Utilize the reach of local radio stations to ensure information reaches even remote stakeholders.
- ? Strategy: Weekly radio segments providing project updates, addressing frequently asked questions, and promoting upcoming stakeholder events.
- ? Responsibility: Communication team in collaboration with local radio hosts.

? Community Meetings:

- ? Objective: Foster direct interaction with the community, allowing face-to-face discussions.
- ? Strategy: Monthly community assemblies in central locations accessible to all, ensuring inclusivity.
- ? Responsibility: Local coordinators and project management team.

? Pamphlets

- ? Objective: Provide physical informational materials that stakeholders can refer to at their convenience.
- ? Strategy: Distribute pamphlets during community meetings, at local hubs, and through community leaders.
- ? Responsibility: Communication and design team in consultation with field experts.

? Online Platforms

? Objective: Utilize digital means to reach a broader audience, especially the younger generation and international stakeholders.

? Strategy: Develop a dedicated project website, maintain active social media channels, and send regular email newsletters.

? Responsibility: Digital communication team.

2. Consultation Meetings

? Objective: Engage in deeper, focused discussions about project specifics and gather direct feedback.

? Strategy: Quarterly meetings with pre-defined agendas, ensuring representation from all stakeholder groups. Minutes of the meetings will be circulated afterward.

? Responsibility: Project management team and local coordinators.

3. Workshops and Training Sessions

? Objective: Build capacities and ensure that the local communities and stakeholders possess the knowledge and skills needed for the project's success.

? Strategy:

? Technical Workshops: Focus on imparting technical knowledge related to MPA management, conservation techniques, etc.

? Skill Development Sessions: Emphasize soft skills, leadership, and community mobilization, ensuring a gender-responsive approach.

? Feedback Sessions: Post-workshop debriefs to refine future training.

? Frequency: Bi-annually or based on project milestones.

? Responsibility: Training and capacity-building team.

4. Feedback and Grievance Mechanisms

? Objective: Provide a structured avenue for stakeholders to share concerns, complaints, or feedback, ensuring they feel heard and valued.

? Strategy

? Feedback Boxes: Placed in community hubs for anonymous feedback.

? Online Portal: For stakeholders comfortable with digital platforms, ensuring confidentiality.

? Helpline: A dedicated phone number for real-time grievances and assistance.

? Grievance Redressal Committee: Comprising representatives from different stakeholder groups to ensure fair assessment and timely resolution.

? Transparency: Regular updates on the resolution of major grievances.

? Responsibility: Grievance redressal team under the oversight of project management.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only;

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body; Yes

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Gender Action Plan (GAP)

The Grand Bereby MPA project project recognizes the critical role that gender equality plays in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. This GAP is designed to ensure that the project is gender-responsive and contributes to gender equality in line with the national and international commitments of Cote d'Ivoire.

The GAP is centered around five key objectives: enhancing women's participation in decision-making processes, improving women's access to education and training, promoting women's access to resources, ensuring gender-sensitive project design and implementation, and creating employment and economic opportunities for women in natural resource management. Each objective is accompanied by specific actions to be taken within the project area of Grand Bereby, with the ultimate goal of ensuring that both men and women are able to participate fully in project activities and benefit equally from project outcomes.

The implementation of this plan will be monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure its effectiveness and to make necessary adjustments. **By addressing the specific needs and constraints faced by women in the project area, the project can help to promote more equitable and sustainable development in Grand Bereby.** This GAP is a tool to guide the project team and stakeholders in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in all aspects of the project's work.

Objectives of GAP	Description of Objective	Actions	Description of Actions
Objective 1: Enhance women's participation in decision-making processes in Grand Bereby	This objective aims to ensure that women in Grand Bereby have an active role in the decision-making processes related to the MPA project, thereby ensuring their needs and	<i>Action 1.1:</i> Establish project governance bodies with at least 40% representation of women in Grand Bereby.	This action will ensure that women from Grand Bereby are adequately represented in the MPA project's decision-making bodies, promoting gender balance and inclusivity.
		<i>Action 1.2:</i> Conduct regular consultation and dialogue sessions with women's groups in Grand Bereby to ensure their voices are heard in decision-making processes.	This action will provide a platform for women in Grand Bereby to express their views and concerns, ensuring their perspectives are incorporated into MPA project decisions.

Objectives of GAP	Description of Objective	Actions	Description of Actions
	perspectives are considered.	<u>Action 1.3:</u> Implement capacity building workshops, awareness-raising campaigns, and training on leadership and decision-making specifically for women in Grand Bereby.	This action will equip women in Grand Bereby with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively participate in decision-making processes related to the MPA project.
Objective 2: Improve women's access to education and training in Grand Bereby	This objective aims to provide equal opportunities for women in Grand Bereby to acquire skills and knowledge related to the MPA project.	<u>Action 2.1:</u> Develop and implement a comprehensive training program on sustainable natural resource management, climate change adaptation, and alternative livelihoods in Grand Bereby, ensuring equal access for women.	This action will provide women in Grand Bereby with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate fully in MPA project activities and to adapt to climate change.
		<u>Action 2.2:</u> Establish a mentorship program in Grand Bereby to encourage women to take on leadership roles in natural resource management.	This action will provide women in Grand Bereby with the support and guidance they need to take on leadership roles in the MPA project.
Objective 3: Promote women's access to resources in Grand Bereby	This objective aims to ensure that women in Grand Bereby have equal access to MPA project resources, enabling them to fully participate in project activities and benefit from project outcomes.	<u>Action 3.1:</u> Advocate for the recognition and protection of women's land rights with local authorities in Grand Bereby.	This action will work towards ensuring women's rights to land in Grand Bereby are recognized and protected, enabling them to participate fully in MPA project activities.
		<u>Action 3.2:</u> Implement a financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills training program for women in Grand Bereby to empower them to access credit and other financial resources.	This action will equip women in Grand Bereby with the necessary skills to manage finances and engage in entrepreneurial activities, thereby enhancing their economic empowerment.
Objective 4: Ensure gender-sensitive project design and implementation in Grand Bereby	This objective aims to ensure that the MPA project in Grand Bereby is designed and implemented in a way that takes into	<u>Action 4.1:</u> Conduct a gender analysis at the start of the MPA project in Grand Bereby to inform the project design and ensure that the needs and perspectives of both men and women are taken into account.	This action will ensure that the MPA project design in Grand Bereby is informed by a thorough understanding of the gender dynamics in the project area.

Objectives of GAP	Description of Objective	Actions	Description of Actions
	account the needs and perspectives of both men and women.	<u>Action 4.2:</u> Monitor and evaluate the MPA project's gender outcomes regularly in Grand Bereby, using gender-sensitive indicators.	This action will ensure that the MPA project's impact on gender equality in Grand Bereby is regularly assessed and necessary adjustments are made.
		<u>Action 4.3:</u> Promote the recognition and use of traditional knowledge of both women and men in the MPA project's activities in Grand Bereby.	This action will ensure that the valuable traditional knowledge of both women and men in Grand Bereby is recognized and utilized in the MPA project's activities.
Objective 5: Create employment and economic opportunities for women in natural resource management in Grand Bereby	This objective aims to promote women's economic empowerment in Grand Bereby by creating opportunities for them in natural resource management related to the MPA project.	<u>Action 5.1:</u> Develop and implement a strategy to promote women's participation and leadership in natural resource management and related economic activities in Grand Bereby.	This action will create opportunities for women in Grand Bereby to engage in and lead natural resource management activities related to the MPA project, thereby enhancing their economic empowerment.
		<u>Action 5.2:</u> Advocate for the elimination of gender-based discrimination in the workforce in the project area of Grand Bereby.	This action will work towards creating a gender-equal work environment in Grand Bereby, ensuring that women have equal opportunities to participate in and benefit from the MPA project.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

Monitoring and Review of the Private Sector Engagement Plan (PSEP)

The effective monitoring and review of the Private Sector Engagement Plan (PSEP) is crucial to ensure its successful implementation and to adapt to changing circumstances or new opportunities that may arise. Here's a detailed description of how the PSEP will be monitored and reviewed:

Establishment of a Monitoring Committee: A dedicated committee will be established, comprising representatives from the project management team, local communities, and private sector stakeholders. This committee will be responsible for overseeing the monitoring and review process of the PSEP.

Development of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): For each objective and action listed in the PSEP, specific KPIs will be developed. These KPIs will serve as measurable indicators of progress and will be used to assess the effectiveness of each action.

Regular Data Collection: Data related to each KPI will be collected regularly. This might include feedback from private sector participants, records of meetings and consultations, reports on training sessions, and data on private sector investments in the MPA.

Quarterly Review Meetings: The Monitoring Committee will convene on a quarterly basis to review the collected data and assess the progress of the PSEP against the set KPIs. These meetings will serve as a platform for discussing challenges, successes, and potential adjustments to the plan.

Annual Performance Report: An annual performance report will be produced, summarizing the progress of the PSEP, highlighting achievements, challenges faced, and lessons learned. This report will be shared with all stakeholders, ensuring transparency and fostering a sense of collective ownership and accountability.

Feedback Mechanism: A feedback mechanism will be established to gather inputs from the private sector and other stakeholders on the effectiveness of the PSEP. This will provide valuable insights and suggestions for improving the plan.

Adaptive Management Approach: Based on the quarterly reviews, feedback received, and the annual performance report, necessary adjustments will be made to the PSEP. This adaptive management approach ensures that the plan remains relevant and effective in the face of changing circumstances or new challenges.

External Evaluation: At mid-term and towards the end of the project, an external evaluation will be conducted by an independent entity within the context of the mid-term project evaluation. This evaluation will provide an unbiased assessment of the PSEP's effectiveness and offer recommendations for its future iterations.

The Grand Bereby MPA project recognizes the vital role that the private sector plays in sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. This Private Sector Engagement Plan (PSEP) is designed to ensure that the project effectively engages with the private sector, leveraging their resources, expertise, and innovation for the successful management of the Grand-Bereby MPA.

The PSEP is centered around four key objectives: engaging the private sector in the formulation of the MPA management plan, promoting private sector investment in MPA management, encouraging the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices by the private sector, and fostering private sector participation in the implementation and monitoring of the MPA management plan. Each objective is accompanied by specific actions to be taken, with the ultimate goal of fostering a collaborative approach to MPA management that includes the private sector as a key stakeholder.

The implementation of this plan will be monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure its effectiveness and to make necessary adjustments. By actively engaging the private sector, the project can help to ensure the financial sustainability of the MPA, promote the conservation of marine biodiversity, and contribute to sustainable development in Grand-Bereby.

Objectives	Actions
Objective 1: Engage the private sector in the formulation of the MPA management plan	<u>Action 1.1:</u> Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify key private sector actors who could contribute to the MPA management plan.
	<u>Action 1.2:</u> Organize consultation meetings with identified private sector actors to gather their inputs for the MPA management plan.
	<u>Action 1.3:</u> Facilitate the participation of private sector representatives in the development of the MPA management plan.
Objective 2: Promote private sector investment in MPA management	<u>Action 2.1:</u> Conduct feasibility studies for conservation investment projects in the Grand-B?r?by MPA.
	<u>Action 2.2:</u> Develop and present business cases to potential private sector investors, highlighting the benefits of investing in the MPA.
	<u>Action 2.3:</u> Establish financial mechanisms that enable private sector contributions to MPA management.
Objective 3: Encourage the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices by the private sector	<u>Action 3.1:</u> Develop guidelines on biodiversity-friendly practices relevant to industries operating in and around the MPA.
	<u>Action 3.2:</u> Organize training sessions for private sector actors on the implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices.
	<u>Action 3.3:</u> Recognize and promote companies that adopt biodiversity-friendly practices through awards or certification schemes.
Objective 4: Foster private sector participation in the implementation and monitoring of the MPA management plan	<u>Action 4.1:</u> Establish a multi-sectoral committee, including private sector representatives, to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the MPA management plan.
	<u>Action 4.2:</u> Regularly communicate the progress and outcomes of the MPA management plan to the private sector to maintain their engagement and support.

5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Strategy
Risk of non-equal participation of all groups, including women and/or vulnerable groups	Medium	Conduct detailed stakeholder mapping, including women and the most vulnerable people in the area of intervention. Mainstream recommendations in the public participation strategy to be designed by the Project.
Risk of inadequate project coordination	Low	Identify and negotiate adequate complementarity and synergy with related projects (WACA, GIAMAA, PESCAO, CFI, GEF 7 Project led by IUCN).

Risk	Rating	Risk Mitigation Strategy
Risk of insufficient inter-institutional collaboration/lack of cross-sectoral cooperation	Medium	Foster close institutional collaboration between relevant stakeholders through the establishment of institutional arrangements designed to promote a multi-sectoral approach to addressing the loss of marine biodiversity (Component 1).
Risk of climate change impacts	Medium	Establish connectivity between marine-coastal ecosystems through the establishment of the Grand-Bereby MPA, consolidation of EBSAs and Marine corridors into an ICM Master Plan, providing movement of species between different habitats and serving as temporary refuge in the face of potential climate change events.
Risk of stakeholder conflicts and lack of buy-in with enforcement of new restrictions	Medium	Create incentives and foster community buy-in and engagement in the project through activities related to alternative livelihood and value chains (Component 2 and 3).
Political risks: Changes in political circumstances and government priorities	Low	Continue advocacy and promote the social and economic benefits of the creation of the MPA to maintain political momentum and justify its contribution to national economy and Sustainable Development Goals.
Risk of incompatible policies/activities/developments in the surrounding landscapes/seascapes with the MPA's objectives	Low	Conduct an impact assessment of the creation of the MPA and consider mitigation measures for the final project design as recommended by the Safeguard Unit.
Risk of COVID-19 pandemic impacts	Medium	Consider legal and financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and develop a mitigation plan at the inception stage. Communicate any disruptions due to COVID-19 pandemic to all stakeholders, including staff and UNEP. Conduct scenario analysis and consider alternative delivery methods, such as virtual or online meetings, radio programmes, recorded messages and guidelines, personal protective equipment or any other steps that will allow the project to be completed on time and on budget.
Risk of insufficient funding for MPA management	High	Develop and implement a sustainable financing strategy for the MPA, including exploring opportunities for private sector investment and establishing financial mechanisms for resource mobilization.
Risk of negative impacts from surrounding industrial activities (e.g., oil and mining, agro-industry, maritime transportation, fisheries)	High	Engage with industries operating in and around the MPA to promote the adoption of biodiversity-friendly practices and mitigate potential negative impacts on the MPA.

The specific risk case of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has introduced significant risks and challenges to project implementation worldwide. Below are some specific COVID-19-related risks that the Grand Bereby project may face. The project will ensure that COVID-19-related risks and mitigation measures are integrated into the overall

project risk management plan and monitored and adjusted as necessary. The project also recognizes that the local context and situation with COVID-19 may vary over time and require regular updates and adjustments to the mitigation measures.

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures
Potential infection and spread of COVID-19 among project personnel and communities in Grand Bereby	High	Develop and implement a COVID-19 prevention and response plan that includes protocols for screening, testing, isolation, and contact tracing, and provides personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies as needed. Conduct regular training and awareness-raising activities for project personnel and communities. Follow the guidelines and recommendations of local health authorities and the World Health Organization (WHO). Establish and enforce safety protocols for all project activities, including physical distancing, hand hygiene, and disinfection.
Disruption of supply chains and logistics due to COVID-19-related restrictions and closures	High	Develop and maintain alternative supply chains and logistics, and build contingencies for potential disruptions. Engage with suppliers and contractors to ensure that they follow COVID-19 safety protocols and can meet project requirements. Monitor and adjust the supply chain and logistics plans as necessary. Maintain regular communication with local and international partners and stakeholders.
Economic and financial impacts of COVID-19 on project funding and sustainability in Grand Bereby	Medium	Conduct a financial and economic analysis that accounts for the potential impacts of COVID-19 on project funding, revenues, and costs. Identify and secure alternative sources of funding and financing, and adjust the project timeline and scope as necessary. Develop a business continuity plan that outlines the steps to ensure the project's sustainability during and after the pandemic. Promote economic recovery and resilience measures that can benefit the project and the local economy.
Mental health and wellbeing of project personnel and communities in Grand Bereby during COVID-19	Medium	Develop and implement a mental health and wellbeing plan that addresses the potential impacts of COVID-19 on project personnel and communities, and provides support and resources as needed. Conduct regular mental health and wellbeing assessments and awareness-raising activities, and promote social and community connectedness. Provide access to telemedicine and mental health services, and develop referral systems for specialized care.

Climate change-related risks

As a coastal community, Grand Bereby is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, more frequent and severe storms, and changes in ocean temperatures and acidity can have significant impacts on the natural environment, marine biodiversity, and local livelihoods. These risks can directly affect the implementation and outcomes of the Grand Bereby project. One of the most significant climate change-related risks is increased flooding due to sea level rise and more frequent and severe storms. This can result in damage to infrastructure, loss of property, and displacement of people. The project can also face risks related to changes in ocean temperatures and acidity, which can impact the marine biodiversity and fisheries upon which local communities depend for their livelihoods.

To mitigate these risks, the project will conduct a climate vulnerability and risk assessment to identify potential hazards and impacts. The assessment will inform the development and implementation of climate adaptation measures that can reduce the project's exposure and vulnerability to climate-related risks. These

measures may include: promoting sustainable land use practices that can reduce erosion and increase resilience; developing alternative livelihood opportunities that can diversify income sources and reduce dependence on fisheries; and raising awareness and promoting education about climate change and its impacts on local communities.

The table below summarizes some of the climate change-related risks and their associated ratings and mitigation measures:

Risk	Rating	Mitigation Measures
Increased flooding due to sea level rise and storms	High	Promote sustainable land use practices that can reduce erosion and increase resilience.
Changes in ocean temperatures and acidity	Medium	Develop alternative livelihood opportunities that can diversify income sources and reduce dependence on fisheries. Conduct regular monitoring of marine biodiversity and fisheries. Promote sustainable fishing practices that can increase resilience and adapt to changing conditions. Raise awareness and promote education about climate change and its impacts on local communities.
Extreme weather events and natural disasters	Medium	Conduct regular risk assessments and develop emergency response plans. Develop resilient infrastructure that can withstand floods, storms, and other natural disasters.

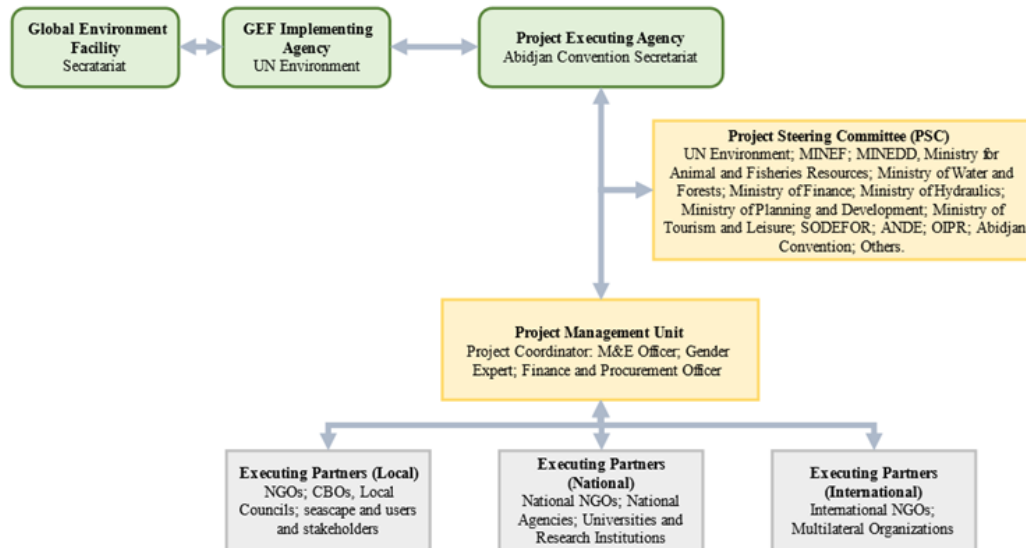
6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.

UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION is the **Implementing Agency (IA)** for this GEF project. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION shall in its role as GEF Implementing Agency, provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. It shall also in partnership with MTE and other key project partners engage in promoting the project with a view to mobilizing resources and partnership. Project supervision will be entrusted to the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director who will discharge this responsibility through the assigned Task Manager who represents the UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Director on the Project Steering Committee. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager shall constitute part of the project supervision plan. UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION will perform the liaison function between UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and report on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter to the GEF Secretariat. UNEP shall inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project). It shall rate, on an annual basis, progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project Implementation Review (PIR) report prepared by the Executing Agency (EA) and ensure that the Evaluation and Oversight Unit

of UNEP arranges for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office.

The Abidjan Convention Secretariat, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD), is the **Executing Agency (EA)** of the project and shall take responsibility to ensure that the project is implemented in accordance with the (a) agreement to be signed with UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION, (b) agreed objectives, activities and budget and deliver the outputs and demonstrate its best efforts in achieving the project outcomes. It shall also coordinate activities with the other key Government and other relevant partners and address and rectify any issues raised by UNEP with respect to project execution in a timely manner. As Executing Agency (EA), the Secretariat is committed to making the best use of project resources and implementing the project in the most effective manner.



The project Executing Agency role has been assign to the Abidjan Convention by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD). AC will establish a project management structures which will be comprised of the following:

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to oversee the GEF project. Strategic monitoring of project activities will be the responsibility of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which acts as the Project Orientation Board. The PSC will meet annually, or extraordinarily as may be warranted, in order to:

- ? Provide overall guidance and ensure coordination between all parties;
- ? Provide monitoring for project implementation;
- ? Review and adopt the annual work plans and budgets prepared by the Project Coordinator and Chief Technical Advisor, in conformity with the project objective and subject to the rules of GEF and UNEP;
- ? Review the six-monthly progress reports to be prepared by PMU and oversee the implementation of corrective actions, when necessary;

? Enhance synergy between the GEF project and other initiatives being implemented in the project area and beyond; and

? Provide advice on policy and strategic issues to be taken into account during project implementation.

The members of the PSC will include:

o **Chair**: the designated Senior Staff from the MEDD

o **Co-Chair**: UNEP ECOSYSTEMS DIVISION Task manager or mandated UNEP Official

o **Members**: GEF Operational focal point and representatives of various ministries, in particular those in charge of the environment, forests, protected areas, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, mines, finance, spatial planning, land, women, tourism, scientific research and administration of the territory, as well as special economic zones. The specific roles within the PSC are based on the mandates assigned to each ministry.

The Secretariat to the PSC will be provided by the Project Management Unit.

As may be required on specific issues, an Advisory group can be formed to offer any other guidance or expertise as required by the specific agenda of the PSC.

A Project Management Unit (PMU): The daily management of the project remains with the project team under the watchful eye of the designated Project Director. The PMU will serve as the critical link between the Agency, the project partners assuming the lead of thematic areas, and the different groups engaged on project activities, will ensure project planned activities are adequately executed and that lessons learned are shared among sites and within national committees and to provide visibility of the project at the national and international level. The PMU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all national and international partners. The PMU will elaborate and submit to the IA technical and financial progress reports. The Project Management Unit consists of:

? Project Coordinator/ Stakeholder Engagement Officer (to be recruited)

? Project Monitoring and Evaluation Expert (to be recruited)

? Administration and Financial Officer (to be provided by Abidjan Convention)

? Gender Expert - Ad hoc Consultant

See Appendix 5: Terms of Reference for Project Personnel for detailed overview of PMU roles.

The PMU will be hosted by the Abidjan Convention Secretariat. The hosting costs will be covered by the Government.

During the project preparation phase, a stakeholder analysis was conducted to identify key stakeholders in the Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA) and surrounding coastal zone. The analysis assessed their interests in the project and defined their potential role in the project implementation. Section 2.5 (Stakeholder mapping and analysis) provides a detailed account of the major categories of stakeholders identified, including government agencies, NGOs, local communities, and private sector entities, and outlines the level of involvement envisaged for each stakeholder group in the project.

A series of consultations were held with the key stakeholders at the national and local levels to discuss different aspects of project design that were relevant to the Grand Bereby MPA and the surrounding coastal zone. These included: (i) bilateral discussions to gather information on the current project baseline, consult on proposed project interventions and confirm the political, operational, and financial commitment of project partners (including securing co-financing commitments); (ii) a consultative workshop with key stakeholders to present the project, identify opportunities for synergies and collaboration, and gather stakeholder inputs; (iii) a validation workshop to present the revised project outputs, activities, budget, and

implementation arrangements to the key agencies involved; and (iv) circulation of the project documentation for review and comments.

The project activities are designed to promote stakeholder participation in the implementation of project activities and decision-making processes. This includes active engagement with local communities, traditional authorities, and women's groups to ensure their participation in project activities, awareness, and capacity building. As explained in Section 3.11 (Environmental and social safeguards), the project activities have been designed to address some of the gender-related issues in the Grand Bereby MPA and the surrounding coastal zone by (a) ensuring adequate representation of women in the project implementation and governance bodies, and (b) valuing the breadth and depth of traditional knowledge of environment and biodiversity resources by both women and men.

Through these consultations and engagement activities, the project seeks to build and strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders to effectively manage the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone. The project recognizes the importance of stakeholder participation and engagement in achieving the project objectives, particularly in terms of sustainable management and conservation of the marine and coastal resources in the region. The engagement process helped to build trust and foster collaboration among the stakeholders, and ensured that their concerns and aspirations were incorporated into the project design. It also helped to identify potential risks and challenges that could arise during project implementation and to develop strategies to mitigate them.

Partner	Role in the project
Project Executing Partner	
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●As the project Executing Partner, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has a critical role to play in ensuring effective and successful implementation of the project on the ground. ●It is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the various project activities and ensuring that they align with national policies and priorities. ●The ministry will also be responsible for liaising with other government agencies and stakeholders to ensure effective collaboration and coordination throughout the project. ●It will be responsible for mobilizing resources, both financial and technical, to support project implementation and ensure its sustainability. ●The ministry will also be responsible for monitoring and evaluating project progress and outcomes, and making necessary adjustments to ensure that project objectives are achieved. ●Additionally, the ministry will have a key role to play in communicating project objectives and outcomes to key stakeholders, including local communities and other government agencies.
Government Ministries	
Ministry of Water and Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Provide technical expertise on forest and land management within the project area ●Coordinate with other relevant ministries to ensure that the project aligns with national policies and priorities ●Assist in the development and implementation of the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol

Ministry of Health, Public Hygiene, and Universal Health Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide expertise on public health issues related to coastal and marine ecosystems ● Collaborate with the project team to design and implement health education and awareness campaigns for local communities ● Monitor and evaluate the health impacts of the project on local communities
Ministry of Hydraulics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on water management and sanitation within the project area ● Assist in the development and implementation of the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol, particularly with regards to water quality monitoring ● Coordinate with other relevant ministries to ensure that the project aligns with national policies and priorities related to water management
Ministry of Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate with the project team to ensure that the project aligns with national development priorities ● Provide technical expertise on sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies ● Monitor and evaluate the socioeconomic impacts of the project on local communities
Ministry for Animal and Fisheries Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on fisheries management within the project area ● Collaborate with the project team to design and implement sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods for local communities ● Assist in the development and implementation of the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol, particularly with regards to fishery resources
Ministry of Tourism and Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on sustainable tourism development within the project area ● Collaborate with the project team to design and implement sustainable tourism practices that support the conservation of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone ● Monitor and evaluate the impacts of the project on the tourism sector in the project area
Ministry of Mines, Petroleum Resources and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on the management of extractive industries within the project area ● Collaborate with the project team to ensure that extractive industries within the project area adhere to environmental and social standards ● Assist in the development and implementation of the Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol, particularly with regards to monitoring extractive industries and their impacts on the environment
Government Agencies	
Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on forest management and conservation ● Collaborate with the project team in developing and implementing sustainable forestry practices within the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone
Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves (OIPR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide technical expertise on protected area management and conservation ● Collaborate with the project team in managing the Grand Bereby MPA and ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in the area ● Provide guidance on the development and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan for the MPA

National Environment Agency (ANDE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Provide technical expertise on environmental management and conservation ●Collaborate with the project team in ensuring compliance with environmental regulations and best practices ●Provide guidance on the development and implementation of the environmental and social safeguards for the project
The Ivorian Anti-Pollution Centre (CIAPOL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●CIAPOL is implementing the Integrated Management of the Marine and Coastal Area of Abidjan to Assinie (GIAMAA) project. Engagement with CIAPOL has been established and will be strengthened in light of the operationalization of the Grand-Bereby MPA management plan, and ICM Master Plan
Abidjan Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Provide technical expertise on marine and coastal management and conservation ●Collaborate with the project team in ensuring the conservation of biodiversity in the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone ●Provide guidance on the development and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation plan for the MPA
Academic Institution: Université d'Abidjan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Conduct research on the environmental, social, and economic impacts of the project ●Provide technical expertise on environmental and social impact assessment ●Collaborate with the project team in developing and implementing sustainable practices within the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone
Regional Institutions & Multilateral Partners	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●GRID-Arendal and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat can provide technical expertise on marine and coastal management, and support the project's efforts to strengthen the institutional framework for the Grand Bereby MPA. ●The FAO/CFI project funded by GEF can offer lessons learned and best practices from their experiences working on coastal and marine management projects in West Africa, and provide technical assistance on sustainable livelihoods and alternative income-generating activities. ●The WB WACA project can support the project's efforts to enhance coastal resilience and promote sustainable coastal and marine management practices in the West African region. ●IUCN can provide technical assistance on biodiversity conservation, marine and coastal management, and sustainable livelihoods, and support the project's efforts to engage local communities and stakeholders in project activities. ●EU can provide financial and technical support for the project through various programs and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and biodiversity conservation in Africa. ●ECOWAS can support the project's efforts to promote regional collaboration and coordination on marine and coastal management, and contribute to the development of regional policies and strategies on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. 	
Local communities	
Adjam?n?; Kouibly Association of villages affected by the Marine Protected Area Project (VI-AMP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Participating in the development and implementation of the Grand-Bereby MPA monitoring protocol and providing feedback on its effectiveness ●Identifying and implementing alternative income-generating activities that are locally appropriate and contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources in the area ●Collaborating with project partners to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable marine and coastal management practices and the benefits of the Grand-Bereby MPA ●Participating in capacity-building activities that enhance their knowledge and skills in sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation ●Providing feedback and insights on the impact of the project on their livelihoods and the local environment, and suggesting ways to improve project effectiveness.

Women's groups	
Union des Sociétés Coopératives des Femmes de la Pêche et assimilées de Côte d'Ivoire (USCOFEPCI) ; Action pour le Développement ; Association des Femmes de Grand Béréby pour le Développement (AFGAD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Act as key stakeholders and partners in the implementation of project activities. ● Help to identify gender-specific needs and priorities within the local community. ● Provide valuable input on the design and implementation of gender-sensitive alternative income-generating activities. ● Participate in capacity-building activities related to conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, and climate change adaptation. ● Contribute to raising awareness on the importance of gender equity and women's participation in natural resource management. ● Facilitate the participation of women in decision-making processes related to the management of the Grand Béréby MPA and the broader coastal zone.
Non-Governmental and Other Local Organizations	
Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP LCs) (The Kroumen; The Dan; The Guér?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global biodiversity goals are unattainable without the full inclusion of PLCs. Therefore, they need to be integrated into any management framework for natural resources preservation
The NGO-OPEIF Afrique Organization for the Promotion of Women's Industrial Entrepreneurship in Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Could be engaged on training, awareness, awareness raising, management of Income Generating Activities, support for the creation of economic entities (SARL, cooperatives, and others) as part of component 2.
The Cooperative des Mareyeuses et Transformatrices des Produits Halieutiques d'Abidjan (CMATPHA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Could be engaged on Fisheries value chain activities as part of component 2
The Rural Land Agency (AFOR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A key Institution to engage with while designing Outcome 1.1. to establish institutional arrangements, policies and processes to coordinate the management of the broader coastal zone and its marine biodiversity.
Private Sector	

Tourism tour operators, Oil and mining companies, fishing industries, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Financial Support and Investment: Provide direct investment, sponsor specific initiatives, or contribute through corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs. ●Sustainable Practices and Innovation: Adopt and promote sustainable practices in their operations, invest in eco-friendly technologies, and contribute to conservation efforts. ●Advocacy and Awareness Raising: Leverage influence to raise awareness about the project, advocate for marine conservation, and engage stakeholders in conservation efforts.
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Stakeholder engagement plan

The following is table illustrating engagement techniques for various stakeholders, the purpose and frequency. In addition to these specific engagement methods, the project team will also develop a communication plan to ensure that all stakeholders are kept informed of the project's progress and any updates or changes that may occur. The team will also ensure that all stakeholder engagement activities are monitored and evaluated to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the project is meeting its objectives.

Stakeholder Category	Engagement Techniques	Purpose of Engagement	Frequency
Government Ministries	Meetings, Presentations, Site Visits	Gain support for the project and address concerns/objections	As needed, regular updates
Government Agencies	Meetings, Site Visits, Workshops	Obtain regulatory approvals and address specific concerns/objections	As needed, regular updates
Regional Institutions & Multilateral Partners	Meetings, Presentations, Workshops	Seek support and feedback on project implementation	As needed, regular updates
Local Communities	Community Meetings, Focus Groups, Surveys	Seek feedback on project design and implementation, address concerns/objections	Regularly scheduled meetings and updates
Women's Groups	Meetings, Focus Groups, Workshops	Seek feedback on project design and implementation, ensure specific needs and interests are addressed	Regularly scheduled meetings and updates

Grievance Mechanism for the Grand-Bereby MPA Project

1. Objective: To provide a clear, transparent, and accessible process for all stakeholders, especially local communities, to voice concerns or complaints related to the project and ensure that these grievances are addressed in a timely and effective manner.

2. Scope: This mechanism covers all grievances related to the project's activities, including environmental, social, or any other concerns that stakeholders might have.

3. Principles:

- Transparency:* All grievances will be recorded, and the process will be communicated clearly to all stakeholders.

- Accessibility:* The mechanism will be easily accessible to all, with special provisions for vulnerable groups.

- Neutrality*: Grievances will be reviewed by a neutral body to ensure unbiased resolution.
- Confidentiality*: The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential if requested.
- No Retaliation*: No one will face retaliation for raising a grievance.

4. Process:

Step 1: Submission of Grievance

- Written Submissions*: Stakeholders can submit their grievances in a detailed written format, providing as much information as possible about the issue. This can be done through letters, emails, or official grievance forms.
- Verbal Submissions*: For those who may have literacy challenges or prefer verbal communication, dedicated personnel will be available to record their grievances. This ensures inclusivity in the grievance process.
- Online Portal*: A user-friendly online portal will be set up, allowing stakeholders to submit grievances electronically. This portal will have features to attach evidence, track the status of the grievance, and receive updates.
- Grievance Submission Boxes*: Located at local community centers and project offices, these boxes will allow stakeholders to submit grievances anonymously. Regular checks will ensure timely processing of these grievances.

Step 2: Acknowledgment

- Timely Response**: Once a grievance is received, an acknowledgment receipt will be sent to the complainant within 7 working days, ensuring that their concern has been registered.
- Informative Communication*: The acknowledgment will include a brief overview of the grievance process, expected timelines for resolution, and contact details for any immediate concerns.

Step 3: Review and Investigation

- Grievance Redress Committee (GRC)*: This committee will consist of representatives from various stakeholder groups, ensuring a balanced and unbiased review process. The GRC will be responsible for the initial assessment of the grievance.
- Investigation Process*: Depending on the nature of the grievance, the GRC will employ various methods to gather information. This may involve visiting the site related to the grievance, conducting interviews with relevant parties, and consulting with experts if needed.

Step 4: Resolution

- Time-bound Process*: The GRC will work diligently to ensure that grievances are resolved within 30 working days, ensuring that issues are addressed promptly.
- Transparent Communication*: Once a resolution has been reached, the GRC will communicate the outcome to the complainant and any other affected parties. This communication will detail the findings and the steps taken to address the grievance.

Step 5: Appeal

- Appeal Process*: If a complainant is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the GRC, they have the right to appeal. This appeal will be reviewed by a higher authority within the project management structure, ensuring an additional layer of scrutiny.
- Timely Review*: The appeal process will be expedited, with a commitment to conclude it within 15 working days, ensuring that grievances don't linger unresolved.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- Quarterly Reports:* Every quarter, a detailed report will be generated, showcasing the number of grievances received, their nature, status, and the resolutions provided. This ensures transparency and accountability in the grievance process.

- Annual Review:* To ensure the grievance mechanism remains effective and relevant, an annual review will be conducted. This review will assess the mechanism's strengths, areas for improvement, and any changes in the project's context that might necessitate adjustments.

Capacity Building:

- Training Sessions:* To ensure that all project staff and stakeholders are familiar with the grievance mechanism, regular training sessions will be conducted. These sessions will cover the importance of the mechanism, its processes, and the roles and responsibilities of various parties.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

The Grand Bereby MPA project is consistent with Cote d'Ivoire's various plans and strategies for environmentally sustainable development. The project aligns with the *Environmental Code in 1996 and the Law on the Protection of Nature and the Environment* by prioritizing sustainable land management and climate adaptation measures. These laws provide a legislative framework for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources, both of which are key components of the project.

The project is also consistent with the *National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP-CI)*, which established ten programs for strategic national environmental management from 1996-2010. The project's emphasis on alternative livelihoods and sustainable land management aligns with the NEAP-CI's objective to promote sustainable economic activities that preserve natural resources and reduce environmental degradation.

Furthermore, the *National Commission for Sustainable Development (CNND)* in 2004 was established to provide a national strategy for sustainable development that takes into consideration social, economic, and environmental dimensions. The Grand Bereby project aligns with the CNND's mandate by prioritizing environmentally sustainable development objectives and implementing climate adaptation measures that reduce the impact of environmental degradation on local communities.

The project is also consistent with the *National Development Plan (PND 2012-2015)* in 2011, which aims to bring the country back to an economic growth path and envisions Cote d'Ivoire being an emerging country by 2020. The project's focus on alternative livelihoods and sustainable land management can contribute to the country's economic growth while promoting sustainable development practices.

Moreover, the project aligns with the first *National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD)*, which aims to spearhead the transition to a more sustainable society and consists of seven guiding strategies. The project aligns with the fifth guiding strategy, which aims to establish a regulatory and institutional framework for the environment, by prioritizing climate adaptation measures and promoting sustainable land

management practices. The project also aligns with the sixth guiding strategy, which aims to transition to a green economy, by promoting alternative livelihoods and reducing the impact of environmental degradation on local communities.

The project also aligns with key international policies, plans and priorities:

Cote d'Ivoire is a signatory to several international agreements related to environmental management and conservation. The current project is aligned with Cote d'Ivoire's commitments to these international treaties and agreements by promoting the sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity, promoting climate-smart livelihood options, and supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These agreements include:

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): The CBD is a global treaty that aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. As a signatory to the CBD, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to the conservation of its rich biodiversity. The current project aligns with this commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which supports the conservation of biodiversity in the region.

Abidjan Convention: The Abidjan Convention is a regional agreement that aims to promote the sustainable management of the marine and coastal resources in West, Central, and Southern Africa. The convention focuses on a range of issues, including pollution prevention and control, the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity, and the promotion of sustainable development in the region. As a signatory to the Abidjan Convention, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to promoting the sustainable management of its marine and coastal resources. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to the conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity in the region.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): The UNFCCC is a global treaty that aims to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that will prevent dangerous human interference with the climate system. As a signatory to the UNFCCC, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to taking action to address climate change. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting climate-smart alternative livelihood options that reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to building the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change.

Paris Agreement: The Paris Agreement is an international treaty that builds upon the UNFCCC and aims to strengthen the global response to climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Cote d'Ivoire is a signatory to the Paris Agreement and has committed to taking action to address climate change. The current project contributes to this commitment by promoting climate-smart alternative livelihood options that reduce pressure on the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which will contribute to building the resilience of local communities to the impacts of climate change.

Ramsar Convention: The Ramsar Convention is an international treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. As a signatory to the Ramsar Convention, Cote d'Ivoire has committed to the conservation and wise use of its wetlands. The current project aligns with this

commitment by promoting the sustainable management of the Grand Bereby MPA and the broader coastal zone, which includes important wetland areas.

Cote d'Ivoire's *National Action Program (NAP)* aims to mitigate the potential risks of renewed armed conflict and prevent future violence, which are critical priorities for the country. The project can contribute to the achievement of these goals by promoting inclusive and gender-sensitive development practices that prioritize the well-being and livelihoods of all community members, including women and girls. The project's emphasis on sustainable land management and alternative livelihoods can help reduce the impact of environmental degradation on local communities and prevent potential conflicts over natural resources. Furthermore, the project's commitment to promoting gender-sensitive participation and decision-making can contribute to the empowerment of women and their increased involvement in peacebuilding and conflict prevention efforts. Given Cote d'Ivoire's history of political unrest, election-related violence, and armed conflict, the project's focus on promoting sustainable development practices and inclusive participation can help build more resilient and stable communities. Moreover, by aligning with the NAP and other national plans and strategies, the project can contribute to the achievement of the country's broader development objectives and promote sustainable and inclusive development practices.

Cote d'Ivoire's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)'s vision is to manage the country's biological diversity sustainably, with the aim of balancing ecosystems, improving the quality of life for current populations, and preserving the heritage of future generations. The plan's six strategic orientations include preserving natural habitats and their functions, conserving genetic and species diversity, strengthening conservation infrastructure, promoting sustainable use of biodiversity, engaging citizens and disseminating knowledge about living organisms, and enhancing national coordination and international cooperation. The Grand Bereby project aligns with the NBSAP's objectives by promoting sustainable land management practices, which can help safeguard natural habitats and the services they provide, and by prioritizing the conservation of biodiversity in the project's design and implementation. Additionally, the project's focus on sustainable tourism and community development can promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and the preservation of natural resources, which aligns with the NBSAP's objectives of promoting the sustainable use of biological diversity and the conservation of genetic and species diversity. The project's emphasis on community engagement and awareness-raising can also contribute to the NBSAP's objective of mobilizing citizens and disseminating knowledge about living organisms. Through engaging and educating local communities about the importance of biodiversity, the project can promote a culture of conservation and environmental stewardship.

8. Knowledge Management

Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.

The Knowledge Management Approach for the project will involve a range of stakeholders and will be designed to ensure that knowledge is shared and used effectively throughout the project cycle. The following stakeholders will play key roles in the project's knowledge management approach:

1. Project team: The project team will be responsible for collecting and analyzing data and information related to the project's activities and outcomes. They will also be responsible for ensuring that this information is shared with other stakeholders in a timely and appropriate manner.

2. Local communities: Local communities will be engaged throughout the project cycle to provide their knowledge and expertise on the marine and coastal resources in their area. This will include traditional knowledge about marine biodiversity and sustainable resource management practices.
3. Women's groups: Women's groups will play a key role in knowledge management, as they often have unique knowledge and perspectives on environmental management and natural resource use. The project will work with local women's groups to ensure that their knowledge is incorporated into project design and implementation.
4. National and regional institutions: National and regional institutions such as the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ivorian Office of Parks and Reserves, and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat will provide technical expertise and support for the project's knowledge management approach. These institutions will also be responsible for disseminating project information and outcomes to a wider audience.
5. International organizations: International organizations such as GRID-Arendal, IUCN, and the EU will also play a role in the project's knowledge management approach. They will provide technical support and expertise, as well as help disseminate project outcomes to a wider audience.

To ensure effective knowledge management, the project will employ a range of strategies and tools, including:

1. *Monitoring and evaluation*

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the project will be designed using a gender-responsive approach, actively addressing and adapting to the distinct needs, inequalities, and disparities of women and other marginalized groups, ensuring their full participation and representation in the process. The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system of the project will be designed with a gender-sensitive approach, ensuring the active participation of women and other marginalized groups in the process. The M&E system will involve a range of stakeholders, including project partners, local communities, and other relevant organizations. To ensure the effectiveness of the M&E system, the project will conduct regular capacity building and training sessions for stakeholders on data collection, analysis, and reporting.

The project will employ both quantitative and qualitative methods for data collection, including surveys, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews. Data will be analyzed using appropriate software and tools, and findings will be used to inform project decision-making and to identify areas for improvement. The M&E system will also include a feedback mechanism for stakeholders to provide input and suggest improvements to project activities.

The project will use a results-based management (RBM) approach to M&E, which will ensure that project activities are aligned with project goals and objectives. RBM will enable the project to track progress towards specific outcomes and to make adjustments as needed to achieve desired results. The project will use a theory of change approach to guide the M&E system, which will enable the project to understand how inputs, activities, and outputs contribute to achieving project outcomes.

The M&E system will be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure its effectiveness and to address any emerging issues. The project will also ensure the dissemination of M&E findings and results to relevant stakeholders, including local communities, project partners, and other organizations working in the same field.

2. *Knowledge sharing platforms*

The knowledge sharing platforms established by the project will serve as a means for stakeholders to exchange ideas, experiences, and lessons learned. These platforms will promote cross-sectoral collaboration and will provide a space for stakeholders to discuss their successes and challenges related to the project.

The project will leverage various technologies, including digital platforms and social media, to ensure that knowledge is shared widely and effectively. Information on project activities, progress, and results will be

disseminated through various channels, including social media, websites, and newsletters. Additionally, the project will facilitate the development and sharing of relevant educational and training materials to build capacity among stakeholders.

The knowledge sharing platforms will involve a range of stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, academic institutions, and civil society organizations. The project will work closely with these stakeholders to ensure that the knowledge sharing platforms meet their specific needs and interests. For example, the project may organize separate workshops for women's groups or youth to ensure that their voices are heard and that their specific perspectives are taken into account.

The knowledge sharing platforms will also provide an opportunity to document and share traditional knowledge related to marine and coastal management. The project recognizes the value of traditional knowledge in informing sustainable management practices and will work with local communities to document and preserve this knowledge for future generations.

3. *Capacity building*

Capacity building is an important component of the project's knowledge management approach. The project recognizes the need to provide stakeholders with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively participate in knowledge management activities. This includes building the capacity of stakeholders to collect, analyze, and disseminate information and data, as well as to use knowledge management tools and platforms.

The capacity building activities will be designed to address the specific needs of different stakeholder groups. For example, training programs will be developed for project staff to ensure that they have the technical skills necessary to implement the project effectively. In addition, training and awareness-raising activities will be conducted for local communities, including women's groups, to enable them to participate fully in project activities.

The capacity building activities will be conducted through a range of modalities, including workshops, trainings, and mentoring. The project will leverage the expertise of partner organizations and institutions, as well as the knowledge and skills of local communities, to deliver these capacity building activities.

Furthermore, the project will prioritize the development of local capacity in knowledge management. This will involve identifying and building the capacity of local individuals and organizations to collect, manage, and analyze data and information, and to disseminate knowledge and best practices. This will help ensure the sustainability of knowledge management activities beyond the project lifespan.

4. *Information management*

The information management component of the project is critical to ensure that project data and information are effectively collected, stored, and managed for future reference and analysis. This system will help to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that stakeholders have access to accurate and up-to-date project information.

To implement the information management system, the project will establish a centralized database where project information will be stored. This database will be accessible to all project stakeholders and will be regularly updated with new information. In addition to digital records, hard copies of project reports and documents will also be maintained and archived for future reference.

The project will also establish procedures for the collection, storage, and dissemination of project data and information. This will include protocols for data collection, data entry, and data validation. Standardized formats will be used for data collection and reporting to ensure that data can be easily shared and compared across different stakeholders and institutions.

To ensure that the information management system is effective, the project will also provide capacity building opportunities for stakeholders. This will include training on data management and analysis, information technology, and report writing. The project will also work with local institutions to identify opportunities to improve their information management systems and to share best practices.

The information management system will be regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is meeting the needs of stakeholders and that it is effectively contributing to the achievement of project goals. Regular reporting and feedback mechanisms will be established to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the information management system's progress and can provide input and feedback. Overall, the information management component of the project is critical to ensure that project data and information are effectively collected, managed, and shared among stakeholders to achieve the project's goals.

5. *Communication and dissemination*

The communication and dissemination strategy of the project is an essential component of the knowledge management approach. The project aims to use a range of strategies to ensure that project outcomes are effectively communicated to stakeholders and a wider audience. The strategies employed will be tailored to the specific audiences to ensure that the messages are relevant and meaningful.

Some of the communication and dissemination strategies that the project will use include reports, policy briefs, and other communication materials. These materials will be targeted to specific audiences, such as government officials, local communities, academic institutions, and other stakeholders. They will be designed to effectively communicate the project's objectives, activities, and outcomes in a clear and concise manner.

In addition to written materials, the project will also use other communication channels such as workshops, community meetings, and social media platforms. These channels will be used to facilitate the sharing of information and best practices among stakeholders, as well as to raise awareness about the project and its activities.

The project will also make use of existing communication networks and partnerships to disseminate information about the project. For example, the project may collaborate with local NGOs, academic institutions, and other partners to reach a wider audience.

Components of Knowledge Management	Actors Involved	Comments
Initial meeting of the knowledge management platform	Project Management Unit (PMU), National and regional institutions, Women's groups, International organizations	This meeting will bring together key stakeholders to discuss the project's knowledge management approach and establish a framework for collaboration and information sharing.
Formation of Communities of Practices	Project team, Local communities, Women's groups, National and regional institutions	Communities of Practice will be formed to provide a forum for stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences related to the project's objectives. These communities will be organized around specific topics or themes, such as marine conservation or sustainable livelihoods.
Consultations by the project M&E officer with the consultants/experts on the recording of knowledge generated and best practices along the way	Project M&E Officer, Consultants/Experts	The M&E officer will work closely with consultants and experts to ensure that knowledge and best practices are effectively recorded and disseminated. This will include regular consultations to ensure that all relevant information is captured and recorded in a timely manner.

Components of Knowledge Management	Actors Involved	Comments
Organization of interactive knowledge and experience sharing and best practices	Project team, Local communities, Women's groups, National and regional institutions, International organizations	The project will organize interactive knowledge sharing events, such as workshops, trainings, and seminars. These events will provide opportunities for stakeholders to share their experiences, best practices, and challenges related to the project's objectives. They will also enable stakeholders to learn from one another and to identify areas for improvement.
Establishment of knowledge sharing platforms	Project Communications Officer, Project team, Local communities, Women's groups, National and regional institutions, International organizations	The project will establish knowledge sharing platforms, such as online forums, social media groups, and newsletters, to facilitate information exchange and collaboration among stakeholders. These platforms will be designed to meet the specific needs and interests of different stakeholder groups.
Capacity building	Project team, Local communities, Women's groups, National and regional institutions	Capacity building activities will be designed to address the specific needs of different stakeholder groups, such as training programs for project staff or awareness-raising activities for local communities. These activities will be conducted through a range of modalities, such as workshops, trainings, and mentoring.
Information management	Project M&E Officer, Project team, National and regional institutions	The project will establish an information management system to ensure that project data and information are effectively collected, stored, and managed for future reference and analysis. This system will help to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that stakeholders have access to accurate and up-to-date project information.
Communication and dissemination	Project Communications Officer, Project team, Local communities, Women's groups, National and regional institutions, International organizations	The project will use a range of strategies to ensure that project outcomes are effectively communicated to stakeholders and a wider audience. These strategies will include written materials, workshops, community meetings, and social media platforms. They will be tailored to the specific audiences to ensure that the messages are relevant and meaningful.

Specific KM Activities	Budget	Key Deliverables	Timeline
Conduct stakeholder mapping and analysis to identify key knowledge needs	\$10,000	Stakeholder analysis report	Month 1
Establish knowledge sharing platforms, including workshops and community meetings	\$25,000	Workshops and community meetings schedule	Months 3-4
Develop a project monitoring and evaluation plan	\$2,000	Monitoring and evaluation plan	Month 4
Train stakeholders in knowledge management and data collection techniques	\$15,000	Training materials and reports	Months 6-8
Establish a centralized information management system, including digital and hard copy records	\$20,000	Information management system	Months 6-8
Develop communication and dissemination materials, including reports and policy briefs	\$10,000	Communication and dissemination materials	Months 6-24
Conduct regular project reporting and sharing of results with stakeholders	\$20,000	Project reports and results sharing	Months 1-24

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, GEF Full-Sized Projects and any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point. All GEF funded projects are subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e., correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed

against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

Project Inception Phase

A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be held within the first three (3) months of project start-up with the participation of the full project team, relevant counterparts, co-financing partners, and the UNEP Focal Point, as appropriate. A fundamental objective of the IW will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework and the GEF Tracking Tool. This will include reviewing the results framework (indicators, means of verification, and assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalizing the Annual Work Plan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project. Specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at the inception workshop. These will be used to assess whether the implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the Annual Work Plan.

Additionally, the purpose and objective of the IW will be to a) introduce project staff to project stakeholders that will support the project during its implementation; b) detail the roles, support services, and complementary responsibilities of UNEP staff in relation to the project team; c) provide a detailed overview of UNEP-GEF reporting and M&E requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), mid-term review, final evaluation and financial reporting. Equally, the Inception Workshop will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNEP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews including arrangements for the annual audit, and mandatory budget re-phrasings. The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase. A report on the Inception Workshop is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants.

Monitoring Responsibilities and Events

A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: a) tentative timeframes for Project Steering Committee meetings (and other relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms); and b) project-related M&E activities.

Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the Project Lead Technical Expert based on the project's Annual Work Plan and its indicators. The Project Director will inform the UNEP, on behalf of the Executing Agency of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The Project Director will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the IW with support from UNEP Task Manager.

At the inception workshop, specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed. Targets and indicators for subsequent

years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will be done during the annual evaluation.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNEP Task Manager through six-monthly exchanges with the project implementation team, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock of and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. The UNEP Task Manager, as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to the project's field sites, or more often based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/AWP to assess first-hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also take part in these trips, as decided by the Steering Committee and as determined by project resources. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the UNEP Task Manager and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Steering Committee members, and UNEP-GEF.

Annual monitoring will occur through the Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to the Project Steering Committee meeting at least once every year.

The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve (12) months of the start of full implementation. The Project Lead Technical Expert will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNEP GEF Task Manager at least two weeks prior to the PSC for review and comments. The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions Project Steering Committee meeting. The Project Lead Technical Expert will present the APR to the PSC, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the PSC. The Project Lead Technical Expert will also inform the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. UNEP has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be conveyed by UNEP to project stakeholders at the IW, based on delivery rates and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.

The Terminal PSC Review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Lead Technical Expert with support of M&E Officer and guidance from UNEP is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNEP GEF. It shall be prepared in the draft at least two months in advance of the PSC meeting in order to allow review and will serve as the basis for discussions in the PSC meeting. The terminal PSC review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to the sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects being implemented.

Project Monitoring Reporting

The Project Lead Technical Expert, with support from M&E officer and guidance from UNEP-GEF team, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process and that are mandatory.

? A **Project Inception Report (IR)** will be prepared immediately following the IW. It will include a detailed First Year/AWP divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This work plan will include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNEP Task Manager or consultants, as well as timeframes for meetings of the project's decision-making structures. The IR will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any M&E requirements to effectively measure project performance

during the targeted 12-month timeframe. The IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions, and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the IR will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to the IR's circulation, the UNEP/GEF will review the document.

? The **Annual Project Report (APR)**. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the PSC Review, to reflect the progress achieved in meeting the project's AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following sections: a) project risks, issues, and adaptive management; b) project progress against pre-defined indicators and targets, c) outcome performance; and d) lessons learned/best practices.

? The **Project Implementation Review (PIR)** is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from on-going projects. Once the project has been under implementation for one year, a PIR must be prepared by the project management and submitted by UNEP to the GEF. The PIR should then be discussed in the PSC meeting so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project counterparts and the UNEP. The individual PIRs are collected, reviewed, and analysed by the UNEP Operational Focal Point prior to sending them to the GEF by UNEP-GEF Coordination Office.

? **Half year (July/December) Progress Reports** outlining main updates in project progress will be provided every six months to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager. The January ? June progress report stands as the PIR described above.

? **Specific Thematic Reports** focusing on specific issues or areas of activity will be prepared by the project team when requested by UNEP-GEF or the project implementing partners. The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNEP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learned exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNEP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.

? **A Project Terminal Report** will be prepared by the project team during the last three (3) months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements, and outputs of the project; lessons learned; objectives met or not achieved; structures and systems implemented, etc.; and will be the definitive statement of the project's activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project's activities.

? **Publications/Technical reports.** The project intends to publish some documents covering specific themes. In the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft list of publications that are expected during the course of the project and tentative due dates. Where necessary, this publications list will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Publications may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive and specialized analyses of clearly defined theme of research within the framework of the project. These publications will represent, as appropriate, the project's substantive contribution to specific issues, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information at local, national, and international levels.

Project Evaluation

In line with the GEF Evaluation requirements and UNEP's Evaluation Policy, GEF Full-Sized Projects and any project with a duration of 4 years or more will be subject to an independent Mid-Term Evaluation or management-led Mid-Term Review at mid-point. All GEF funded projects are

subject to a performance assessment when they reach operational completion. This performance assessment will be either an independent Terminal Evaluation or a management-led Terminal Review.

In case a Review is required, the UNEP Evaluation Office will provide tools, templates, and guidelines to support the Review consultant. For all Terminal Reviews, the UNEP Evaluation Office will perform a quality assessment of the Terminal Review report and validate the Review's performance ratings. This quality assessment will be attached as an Annex to the Terminal Review report, validated performance ratings will be captured in the main report.

However, if an independent Terminal Evaluation (TE) of the project is required, the Evaluation Office will be responsible for the entire evaluation process and will liaise with the Task Manager and the project implementing partners at key points during the evaluation. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP staff and implementing partners. The direct costs of the evaluation (or the management-led review) will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The TE will typically be initiated after the project's operational completion. If a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, the timing of the evaluation will be discussed with the Evaluation Office in relation to the submission of the follow-on proposal.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comment. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:

- (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
- (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.

While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e., correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.

The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalized. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

Table 3. Costed M&E Plan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP	10,000	25,000	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	PMU	0	3,000	1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project progress and performance indicators	Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP	0	30,000	Annually
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Coordinator with inputs from partners	0	2000	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e., on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings and National Steering Committee meetings	Project Coordinator PMU UNEP	7,000	40,000	Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	Project Coordinator PMU UNEP	0	2000	Annually
Project Implementation Review (PIR) report	Project Coordinator PMU UNEP	0	2000	Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	15,000	35,000	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	10,000	40,000	At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Review/Evaluation <i>(whether a project requires a management-led review or an independent evaluation is determined annually by UNEP's Evaluation Office)</i>	UNEP TM/ UNEP Evaluation Office PMU	15,000	90,000	Typically initiated after the project's operational completion
Audit	PMU	0	50,000	Annually
Project Operational Completion Report	Project Coordinator with inputs from partners	0	2,000	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report (including supporting evidence for in-kind co-finance)	Project Coordinator and input from other co-financiers	0	2,000	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Total		57,000		

10. Benefits

Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?

Socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels

The Grand Bereby project is expected to deliver several socio-economic benefits at both the national and local levels. The project will contribute to sustainable development, improved livelihoods, and enhanced food security and health for local communities, while also creating economic opportunities for the region. These benefits at the local level include:

1. **Sustainable management of natural resources:** The project aims to promote sustainable management practices for marine and coastal resources in the Grand Bereby region. This will help to ensure that these resources are managed in a way that is environmentally and socially sustainable, benefiting both present and future generations.
2. **Improved livelihoods:** The project will support the development of sustainable livelihoods for local communities in Grand Bereby. This will be achieved through the sustainable use of natural resources, which will create income-generating opportunities for local communities.
3. **Increased economic opportunities:** The sustainable management of natural resources will also create opportunities for economic growth and development in the Grand Bereby region. This will include the development of eco-tourism and other industries that rely on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems.
4. **Enhanced food security:** The project will contribute to enhanced food security in Grand Bereby by promoting sustainable fisheries management practices. This will ensure that fish populations are not overexploited, which will help to ensure that local communities have access to a reliable source of food.
5. **Improved health and well-being:** The project will contribute to improved health and well-being for local communities in Grand Bereby by promoting sustainable management practices for marine and coastal ecosystems. This will help to ensure that these ecosystems continue to provide essential ecosystem services, such as water filtration and protection against natural disasters, which are critical to the health and well-being of local communities.
6. **Increased community participation:** The project will promote community participation in decision-making processes related to the management of natural resources in Grand Bereby. This will help to ensure that local communities have a voice in the development of policies and programs that affect their lives and livelihoods.

There are also socioeconomic benefits that will be enjoyed at the national resulting from the implementation of this project. The sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in the Grand Bereby region can have a significant impact on the overall economic development of Cote d'Ivoire. As a coastal country, Cote d'Ivoire's economy is heavily dependent on the ocean, and the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources is crucial for the country's economic growth and development.

The project's focus on eco-tourism and other industries that rely on healthy marine and coastal ecosystems can generate revenue and create employment opportunities not only in the Grand Bereby region but also at the national level. This can contribute to the growth of the tourism industry, which is a significant contributor to the national economy.

Furthermore, the improved management of fisheries can ensure the sustainability of the fishery sector, which is also an important contributor to the national economy. Sustainable fisheries management practices can help to maintain healthy fish stocks, improve the quality of seafood, and increase the income of fishers, processors, and traders. This can result in increased economic activity, more job opportunities, and higher revenues for the national government.

The project can serve as a model for other regions in Cote d'Ivoire and beyond, demonstrating the benefits of sustainable natural resource management and providing valuable lessons for future projects. The knowledge and best practices generated through the project can be shared with other regions and countries facing similar challenges, contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources and the economic development of the region and beyond.

How these socioeconomic benefits translate to global environmental benefits

The socioeconomic benefits of the project can contribute to the achievement of global environment benefits in several ways.

First, the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources in the Grand Bereby region can help to address the global challenge of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. By promoting sustainable management practices, the project can help to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity, and ensure the continued provision of essential ecosystem services. This, in turn, can contribute to the achievement of global biodiversity targets, such as those set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Second, the promotion of sustainable livelihoods and economic opportunities can help to reduce poverty and inequality, which are drivers of environmental degradation. By providing alternative livelihood options that rely on sustainable natural resource management, the project can help to reduce the pressure on ecosystems from activities such as unsustainable fishing and logging. This can contribute to the achievement of global sustainable development goals, such as Goal 1 (No Poverty) and Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Third, the project's focus on community participation and gender mainstreaming can help to ensure that the benefits of sustainable natural resource management are shared equitably among different groups in society. This can help to promote social cohesion and reduce conflict over natural resources, which can have negative environmental impacts. Moreover, by empowering local communities and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes, the project can help to ensure the sustainability of its interventions over the long term. This can contribute to the achievement of global environmental targets related to social inclusion, such as Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification *

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Medium/Moderate		

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Revised Safeguard Risk Identification Form - Grand Bereby Cote d'Ivoire	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Safeguard Risk Assessment - Updated	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Safeguard Risk Assessment	CEO Endorsement ESS	
Safeguard Risk Identification Form - Grand Bereby, Cote d'Ivoire	CEO Endorsement ESS	
SRIF-Cote d'Ivoire MSP GEF 7 Grand Bereby MPA	Project PIF ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

Project title: Strengthening the Sustainable and inclusive management of the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby, recognized as particularly important for the conservation of biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire						
	Indicator	4. Baseline	5. Mid-term target	6. End of project target	Sources of verification	Assumptions
Project objective: To increase the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby Marine Protected Area (MPA)	<u>Indicator 1 (GEF Indicator 11):</u> Percentage increase in the number of community members actively participating in the management of the Grand-Bereby MPA	Not available	30% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)	50% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)	Project monitoring reports, surveys	Availability of necessary resources, community participation, effective communication and awareness-raising efforts
	<u>Indicator 2 (GEF Core Indicator 11):</u> Percentage increase in the number of women in leadership positions in the Grand-Bereby MPA management and related sectors	Not available	25% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)	50% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)	Project monitoring reports, surveys	Availability of necessary resources, commitment of stakeholders, effective communication and awareness-raising efforts

<p><i>Indicator 3</i> (GEF Core Indicators 1&2.2): Percentage increase in the number of sustainable livelihood options available to local communities in the Grand-Bereby MPA area</p>	<p>Not available</p>	<p>30% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)</p>	<p>70% increase (from baseline, assessed during project inception)</p>	<p>Project monitoring reports, surveys</p>	<p>Availability of necessary resources, stakeholder participation, effective implementation of alternative livelihood options and availability of markets for products</p>
<p><i>Indicator 4.1:</i> ((GEF Core Indicator 1)Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)</p>	<p>20 METT Score</p>	<p>13,571 ha with 40 METT Score</p>	<p>13,571 ha with 60 METT Score</p>	<p>Project monitoring reports, satellite imagery</p>	<p>Adequate resources and collaboration with local authorities</p>
<p><i>Indicator 4.2:</i> Increase in METT score of GB PA</p>	<p>20%</p>	<p>40%</p>	<p>60%</p>	<p>Project monitoring reports, satellite imagery</p>	<p>Effective implementation of MPA management plans and stakeholder cooperation</p>
<p><i>Indicator 5.1</i> ((GEF Core Indicator 2.2) : Marine protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use (ha)</p>	<p>20 METT Score</p>	<p>272,375 ha with 40 METT Score</p>	<p>272,375 ha 60 METT Score</p>	<p>Project monitoring reports, satellite imagery</p>	<p>Effective implementation of MPA management plans and stakeholder cooperation</p>

	<i>Indicator 5.2</i> <i>Increase in METT score of GB PA</i>	20%	40%	60%	Project monitoring reports, satellite imagery	Effective implementation of MPA management plans and stakeholder cooperation
	<i>Indicator 6</i> (GEF Core Indicator 4): Area of landscapes under improved practices (ha; excluding protected areas)	Not available	444,029 ha	444,029 ha	Project monitoring reports, third-party certifications	Successful adoption of improved practices and sustained community engagement
	<i>Indicator 7</i> (GEF Core Indicator 11): Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Not available	Female: 1,000, Male: 1,000 Total 2000	Female: 1,500, Male: 1,500 Total 3000	Surveys, project records	Effective engagement and inclusion of both men and women in project activities

Component 1: Improved Policy, Regulatory frameworks and capacity for the management of the Grand-B'r?by.

Outcome 1.1 The Grand-B'r?by MPA, landscape and seascapes Institutional , Regulatory Framework and Technical capacity Established with due	<i>Indicator 8</i> (GEF Core Indicator 1& 2.2): Effectiveness of consultation meetings based on the adoption of community feedback into the project's framework.	No consultation meetings have been held with communities	50% of community feedback from consultation meetings is incorporated into project plans.	80% of community feedback from consultation meetings is incorporated into project plans.	Project reports, meeting minutes, attendance sheets	Communities are willing to attend meetings and actively participate in MPA management
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gender consideration	<i>Indicator 9</i> (GEF Core Indicator 1& 2.2): Extent to which developed management plans are implemented and their impact on the resilience to climate change.	20 METT Score	At least 5 climate-resilient management plans developed with 40 METT Score for the MPA	10 climate-resilient management plans effectively implemented with 60 METT Score of the MPA	Project reports and records	Sufficient technical expertise and stakeholder participation will be available for the development of management plans
	<i>Indicator 10</i> (GEF Core Indicator 1& 2.2): Effectiveness and active collaboration derived from the cooperation agreements signed[1].	0	2 cooperation agreements signed	100% of the 6 cooperation agreements signed are actively implemented, leading to tangible collaborative actions or interventions in the project.	Signed agreements between OIPR and relevant sectors	Willingness of stakeholders to enter into agreements
	<i>Indicator 11</i> (GEF Core Indicator 1&2.2): Number of gender-sensitive awareness and advocacy materials developed	None	8	15	Project records and reports	Availability of funding and resources for the development of the materials
<p><i>Output 1.1.1.</i> Establish a multi-sectoral platform, including community participation, to address marine biodiversity loss in Grand Beriby landscape/seascapes.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1.2.</i> Develop climate-resilient management and business plans for Grand Beriby MPA with a focus on technical, capacity, and gender considerations.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1.3.</i> Negotiate 2-3 agreements between OIPR and various sectors to support Grand-Beriby MPA management.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1.4.</i> Conduct gender-sensitive trainings and develop tools to enhance the capacity of stakeholders for MPA management.</p> <p><i>Output 1.1.5.</i> Produce and implement gender-sensitive awareness materials for GB MPA management.</p>						
Component 2. Alternative livelihood in support of MPA						

<p>Outcome 2.1 Available for both men and women alternatives Livelihood options to reduce pressure on Grand Bereby MPA, landscape and seascapes and increase revenue</p>	<p><u>Indicator 12</u> (GEF Core Indicator 1&2.2): Number of value chains assessed in the feasibility study</p>	0	At least 3 value chains assessed	At least 7 potential value chains assessed	Feasibility study report	Adequate resources are available for conducting the feasibility study
	<p><u>Indicator 13</u> (GEF Core Indicator 11): Percentage increase in household income from AIGA options</p> <p>-</p> <p><u>Indicator 14</u> (GEF Core Indicator 1&2.2): Percentage of the Grand-Bereby MPA's operational budget funded through the financial mechanism.</p>	N/A	<p>At least 10% increase in household income from AIGA options (from baseline, assessed during project inception)</p> <p>At least 30% of the MPA's annual operational budget is covered by revenues generated through the financial mechanism and increase to 40 METT Score</p>	<p>At least 20% increase in household income from AIGA options (from baseline, assessed during project inception)</p> <p>At least 65% of the MPA's annual operational budget is covered by revenues generated through the financial mechanism. and increase to 60 METT Score</p>	<p>Baseline survey and follow-up surveys during implementation</p> <p>Financial reports from the MPA management, audit reports of the financial mechanism, records of revenue generated (e.g., from eco-tourism, sustainable fishing licenses, donations).</p>	<p>Effective implementation of AIGA options and availability of markets for products</p> <p>? The financial mechanism is effectively established and becomes operational within the early stages of the project. ? There is sustained interest and investment in the activities and resources associated with the MPA, contributing to revenue generation. ?Ongoing management and promotion of the financial mechanism effectively engage potential contributors and markets.</p>

Output 2.1.1 Conduct a gender-sensitive feasibility study on valorizing Grand Bereby's marine landscapes in support of management plans.

Output 2.1.2. Identify and implement gender-sensitive, climate-smart income alternatives through small-scale funding.

Output 2.1.3: Develop and Implement a Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Grand Bereby MPA

Component 3. Knowledge management and MPA and project monitoring						
<p>Outcome 3.1: Improved stakeholder including both men and women, capacities for the management and monitoring of the Grand-Bereby MPA and broader coastal zone through the use of knowledge platforms and adequate monitoring frameworks</p>	<p><u>Indicator 15 (GEF Core Indicator 11)</u>: Impact (change in behaviors, practices) resulting from the implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring indicators.</p>	0	60% of the targeted stakeholders demonstrate improved gender-sensitive behaviors and practices as a result of using the identified monitoring indicators.	80% of the targeted stakeholders demonstrate improved gender-sensitive behaviors and practices as a result of using the identified monitoring indicators.	MPA monitoring reports, stakeholder feedback	Availability of necessary resources and commitment of stakeholders
	<p><u>Indicator 16 (GEF Core Indicator 1& 2.2)</u>: Percentage of project activities that are adjusted or modified based on insights from the gender-sensitive indicators incorporated into the Project Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>	0%	At least 40% of project activities demonstrate adaptability based on gender-sensitive indicator feedback.	At least 70% of project activities demonstrate adaptability based on gender-sensitive indicator feedback.	Project Monitoring and Evaluation System documentation	Availability of gender-disaggregated data

<p><i>Indicator 17</i> (GEF Core Indicator 11): Enhancement in decision-making quality among project stakeholders as a result of improved understanding and use of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools.</p>	0%	50% of stakeholders report that gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools have positively influenced their decision-making processes within the project context.	85% of stakeholders report that gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools have positively influenced their decision-making processes within the project context.	Project stakeholder surveys	Adequate communication and awareness-raising efforts regarding gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation
<p><i>Indicator 18</i> (GEF Core Indicator 11): Percentage of stakeholders demonstrating enhanced skills and capabilities in MPA management practices post-training and capacity-building sessions.</p>	0%	At least 50% of trained stakeholders exhibit improved capacity and effective MPA management practices within 12 months post-training.	At least 90% of trained stakeholders exhibit improved capacity and effective MPA management practices within 12 months post-training.	Project stakeholder surveys	Effective training and capacity building activities.
<p><i>Output 3.1.1.</i> Disseminate gender-sensitive materials to promote sustainable management of Grand Bereby MPA. <i>Output 3.1.2.</i> Establish a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for Grand Bereby MPA. <i>Output 3.1.3.</i> Implement a gender-sensitive Project Monitoring and Evaluation System.</p>					

[1] The decree creating the Grand Bereby MPA emphasizes on the collaborative report from various ministries underscores the importance of inter-agency cooperation, laying the groundwork for formal cooperation agreements between key stakeholders in MPA management and biodiversity conservation. Also, by referencing international conventions and prior national laws, the decree signals Cote d'Ivoire's commitment to multi-level collaboration, potentially fostering international partnerships and cooperation agreements focused on shared objectives for marine and oceanic conservation.

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Responses to GEFSEC Comments

Comment	Action taken
<p>Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <p>GEFSEC asked for confirmation that all stakeholders listed in the table have been consulted or a summary of consultations carried out to date.</p> <p>They also requested the anticipated means of future engagement for each stakeholder identified.</p>	<p>Stakeholder Engagement:</p> <p>Response: The project has conducted an exhaustive stakeholder analysis during the PPG phase, identifying key stakeholders in the Grand Bereby MPA and surrounding coastal zone. This analysis, detailed in Section 2.5, categorizes stakeholders and outlines their envisaged involvement. A series of consultations, including bilateral discussions, workshops, and document circulations, have been held to ensure comprehensive stakeholder input. The project emphasizes active engagement, especially with local communities, traditional authorities, and women's groups, to ensure their participation and capacity building. The engagement process has been instrumental in building trust, fostering collaboration, and integrating stakeholder concerns into the project design.</p> <p>Stakeholder Engagement Plan:</p> <p>Response: The project has developed a structured stakeholder engagement plan, detailing engagement techniques, purposes, and frequencies for various stakeholders. This plan ensures that all stakeholders, from government ministries to local communities, are actively involved and informed about the project's progress. The plan also emphasizes regular monitoring and evaluation to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with project objectives.</p> <p>See Section 2</p>
<p>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:</p> <p>?GEFSEC recommended explicitly including gender experts and provided specific text suggestions.</p>	<p>A Gender Expert has been included as one of the key personnel of the project.</p> <p>Gender Experts' Role:</p> <p>Gender experts will be actively involved in the project to ensure that gender considerations are integrated throughout the project's lifecycle. Their role will include conducting gender analysis, providing guidance on gender-responsive strategies, and ensuring that gender outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>See ToRs for key personnel</p>

<p>Risks to Achieving Project Objectives:</p> <p>?GEFSEC asked for a refined risk analysis, addressing specific risks like stakeholder buy-in, political risks, and policies/activities that might be incompatible with the MPA's objectives.</p> <p>?They provided guidance on climate risk screening and requested an adequate climate risk screening.</p>	<p>To address concerns related to stakeholder buy-in, the PPG process embarked on a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise. This process identified key community groups, local organizations, industry representatives, and government entities with a vested interest in the marine protected area of Grand-Bereby. A special emphasis was placed on ensuring representation from often underrepresented groups, particularly women and vulnerable populations. The findings have been incorporated into a public participation strategy to ensure the equal participation of all groups.</p> <p>In the analysis of potential risk, specific focus was given to climate change and COVID 19.</p> <p>See Section 5.</p>
<p>Knowledge Management:</p> <p>?While this section was cleared, it's worth noting that GEFSEC emphasized the need for the proposed knowledge management approach to align with GEF requirements.</p>	<p>A comprehensive knowledge management strategy has been developed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ?Knowledge management approach ?Monitoring and evaluation ?Knowledge sharing platforms ?Capacity building ?Information management ?Communication and dissemination strategy ?Key actors identified ?A budget <p>See Section 8</p>

**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status
in the table below:**

The PPG resources have been use to collect relevant baseline data on some thematic issues which include:

- Institutional analysis,
- Natural resources context
- Socioeconomics analysis

These data have been collected with of recruited experts who produce thematic reports included in this CEO ER package as Thematic Studies Annex.

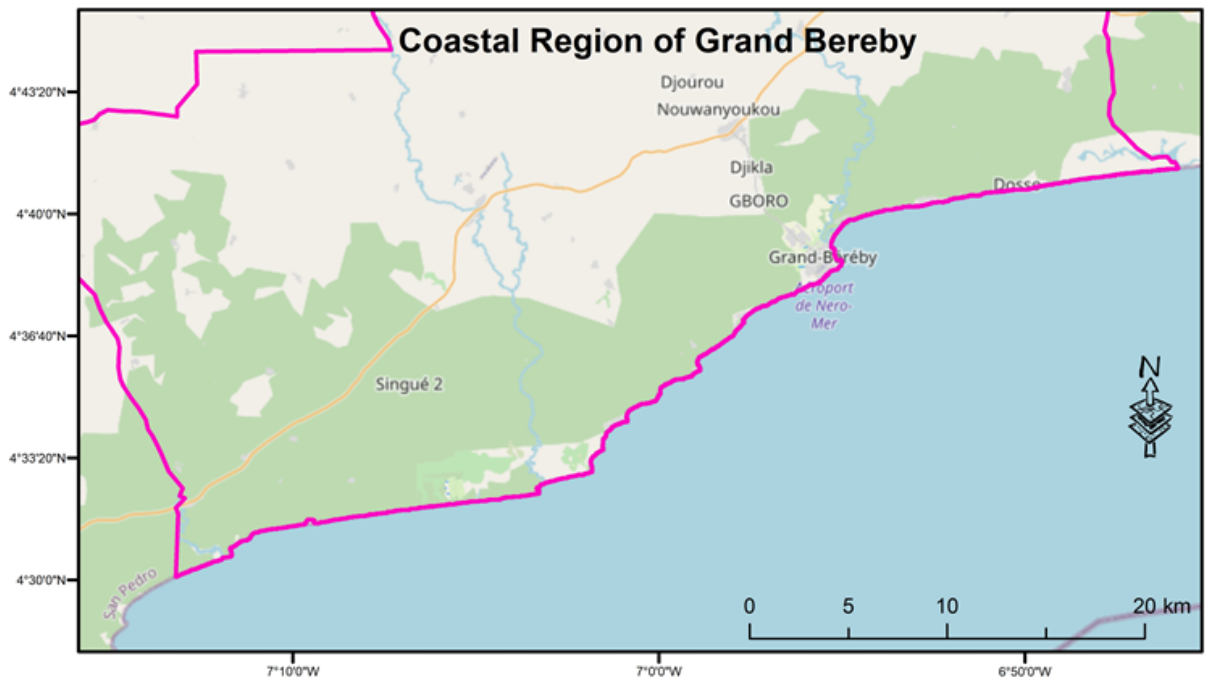
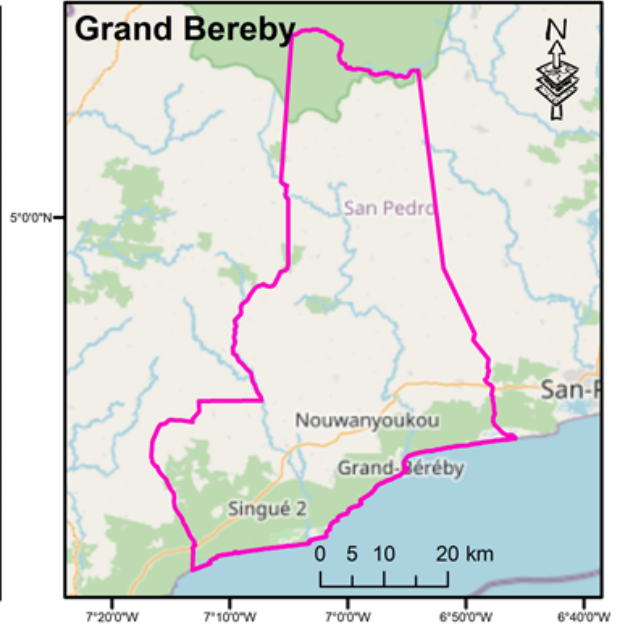
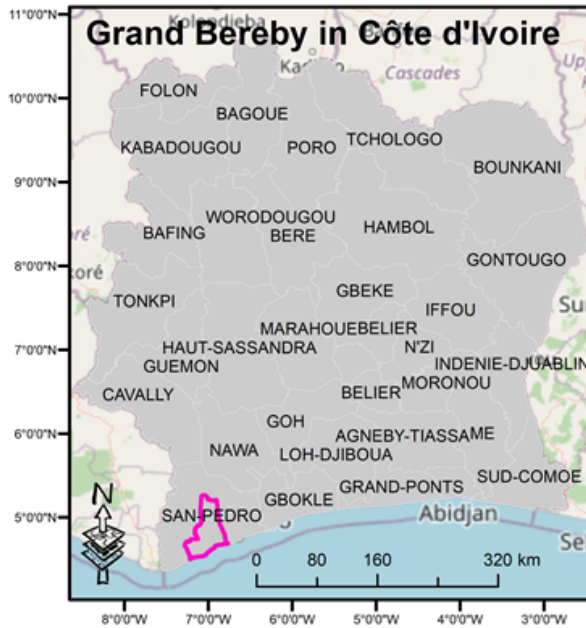
Furthermore, consultations have been conducted with stakeholders including government representatives, women, youth, traditional authorities, fishermen, the tourism industry both at field level and at the HQ in Abidjan. Minutes/reports of these consultations have been considered in the project design but are also included as Annex to the CEO ER.

The budget execution is summarized in the table below:

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
National Consultants	12,000	12,000	0
International Consultants	7,000	7,000	0
Field missions	6,000	6,000	0
Stakeholders consultations	5,000	5,000	0
Total	30,000	30,000	0

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.



Key Coastal and Economic Features of the Grand Bereby Landscape



Location name: Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area

Coordinates:

<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>
4.506977	-7.206827
4.688493	-6.756607
4.274466	-6.576009
4.091754	-7.028686

GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. These IDs are available on the [GeoNames? geographical database](#) containing millions of placenames and allowing to freely record new ones. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#).

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area	4.506977	-7.206827		<input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area	4.688493	-6.756607		<input type="checkbox"/>
Grand Bereby Marine Protected Area	4.277446	-6.576009		<input type="checkbox"/>

funds / Equity	...								
Sub-contract to executing partner/ entity								0	
Contractual Services – Individual	...							0	
Contractual Services – Company	...							0	
International Consultants	Int'l consultant 1							0	
	Int'l consultant 2							0	
	...							0	
Local Consultants	Baseline survey		25,000		25,000			25,000	
	Analysis of value chains for eventual support and upscaling		30,000		30,000			30,000	
Salary and benefits / Staff costs	Project Coordinator						44,000	44,000	
								0	
	Finance Officer						20,000	20,000	
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Inception Workshop					7,000		7,000	
	Conduct training to increase institutional, technical capacity of OIPR, relevant public, municipal and private sector institutions	34,000			44,000		16,000	60,000	
	Develop gender sensitive awareness and advocacy material	25,000			25,000			25,000	
	Project Steering Committee meetings					7,000		7,000	
Travel	Travel on official business (in-country)							0	
	...							0	
Office Supplies	Stationery and sundry					0	5,000	5,000	
	Non exp equipments					0	20,000	20,000	
Other Operating Costs	Mid-term Evaluation					10,000		10,000	
	Terminal Evaluation					15,000		15,000	
	Tracking of Indicators					18,000		18,000	
Grand Total		400,000	650,000	93,000	1,143,000	57,000	120,000	1,320,000	

[1] In exceptional cases where GEF Agency receives funds for execution, Terms of Reference for specific activities are reviewed by GEF Secretariat

ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agencies is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies? capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).