



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

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

11007

Countries

Cote d'Ivoire

Project Name

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

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

8/15/2023

Review completed by PM

12/1/2023

Program Manager

Jurgis Sapijanskas

Focal Area

Biodiversity

Project Type

MSP

PIF CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements


1. Does the project remain aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements as presented in PIF (as indicated in table A)?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/1/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/29/2023

B- This has not been addressed. The executing agency shown in the first page (Ministry of Environment, Protection and Nature and Sustainable Development) is still not consistent with the rest of the document (Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention). Please correct:

Other Executing Partner(s) 

Ministry of Environment, Protection and Nature and Sustainable Development

Executing Partner Type

Government

The rest is cleared.

JS 11/15/2029 - Thank you for the resubmission.

2- Reported changes compared to PIF stage state that "Outcome 2.1 and related outputs and indicators revised to include creation of financial mechanism for MPA sustainability". However, we do not see any output dedicated to a mechanism for MPA financial sustainability in component 2. While we note the elaboration in section 7 on financial sustainability, MPA financial sustainability seems to be only tackled by part of output 1.1.2 (Business plans) and not under outcome 2.1.

Please explain and/or revise either (i) by adding relevant output(s) under outcome 2.1, or (ii) by modifying outcome 2.1 and reflecting PA financial sustainability in another existing or a new outcome with relevant underlying inputs.

In any case, we strongly encourage adding an output entirely dedicated to the establishment of a dedicated financial mechanism, which is currently announced only as a sub activity under output 1.1.2 (Establish a financial mechanism within the framework of FPRCI).

A- Some tables are off-margin in the portal entry. Please correct.

B - The executing agency shown in the first page (Ministry of Environment, Protection and Nature and Sustainable Development) is not consistent with the rest of the document (Secretariat of the Abidjan Convention)

The rest is cleared.

JS 8/24/2023:

1- Please revise the Rio markers. The BD Rio marker should be rated 2.

2- Please provide a short section summarizing and justifying any changes made to project design compared to PIF stage.

3- The expected completion date should be 1/30/2027 to meet the expected 36 months duration. Please correct the expected completion date.

Agency Response

1/12/2023

B. The correction is now done.

24/11/2023

A new Output has been developed to address this. It is:

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

This Output has a description of the Output and its objectives; the Structure of the Sustainable Financial Mechanism; a description of the Functioning of the Financial Mechanism; Key Aspects for Success; and associated activities. It is presented in blue font for easy identification after Output 2.1.2 description.

Table A and other relevant sections of the CEO ER have been updated accordingly.

15/11/23

1. The "Biodiversity Rio Marker" has been rated 2. Please see Section G of the CEO Endorsement Document

2. A table summarizing and justifying any changes made to project design compared to PIF stage is available (Table 1). It justifies for example the change in the area of the MPA from PIF to CEO End.

3. The expected completion date has been changed to 1/30/2027

4. Last check was conducted and we can confirm that throughout the document, the Abidjan Convention is reflected as the Executing Agency.

Project description summary

2. Is the project structure/design appropriate to achieve the expected outcomes and outputs as in Table B and described in the project document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/28/2023

1- Some outputs (Output 1.1.2) were not pasted in their entirety in table B compared to the description of the alternative scenario. Outputs 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5 are missing in table B. Please correct the typos.

Agency Response

14/11/23

The entirety of all Outputs has been updated in Table B

3. If this is a non-grant instrument, has a reflow calendar been presented in Annex D?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Co-financing

4. Are the confirmed expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented, with supporting evidence and a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized, and a description of any major changes from PIF, consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/29/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/16/2023

1- Please provide a courtesy translation in English of the co-financing letter from OIPR.

2- Cleared.

JS 8/24/2023:

1- Please provide supporting documentation for all co-financing. We failed to find any supporting documentation with this submission.

2- Please describe how "Investment Mobilized" was identified. Current elaboration is entirely generic and does not adequately justify the qualification of "investment mobilized" to the co-financing tagged as such.

Agency Response

24/11/2023

A courtesy translation is attached.

15/11/23

1. The cofinancing Letters are now included in the package.
2. Investment mobilized now described.

GEF Resource Availability

5. Is the financing presented in Table D adequate and does the project demonstrate a cost-effective approach to meet the project objectives?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/24/2023: Cleared.

Agency Response
Project Preparation Grant

6. Is the status and utilization of the PPG reported in Annex C in the document?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request JS 8/24/2023: Cleared.

Agency Response
Core indicators

7. Are there changes/adjustments made in the core indicator targets indicated in Table E? Do they remain realistic?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
JS 12/1/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023

1 - This comment has not been addressed.

1a - The baseline METT score has not been added in the portal entry for the terrestrial part of the PA. Instead of the METT score, the portal entry shows the hectarage. Please correct.

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
GB PA				13,571.00		13,571.00			

1b- The marine part of the PA is still reported under 2.1, instead of 2.2. Please report under 2.2 and enter the baseline METT score in the dedicated space.

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	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA 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)
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JS 11/16/2023

1- Thank you but the MPA is still reported on 1.1 and 2.1 in the portal entry and the baseline METT score is thus not provided in the portal entry. Please correct.

We note that the WDPA ID is not yet available as the PA is not yet registered in the WDPA, but that the project will take the necessary steps for registration.

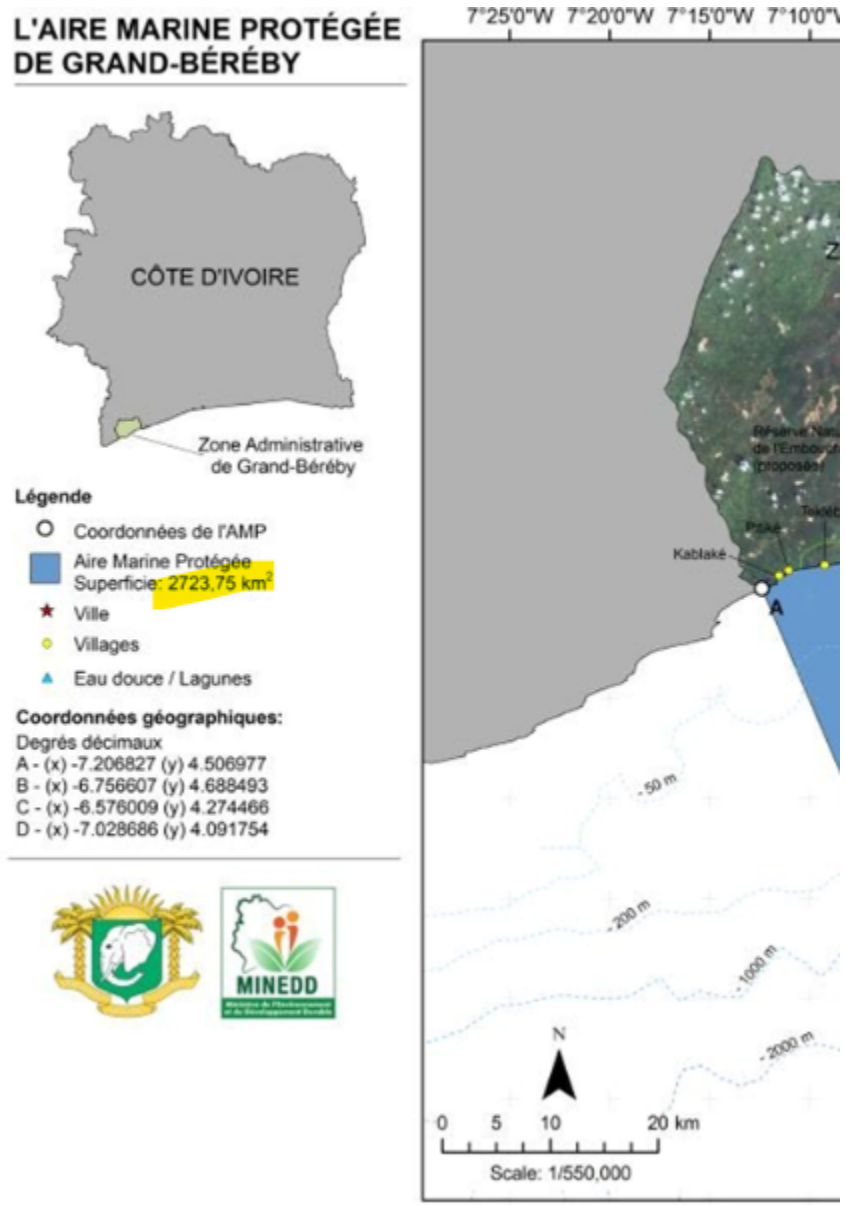
The rest is cleared.

JS 8/28/2023

1- As the decree creating the Grand Bereby MPA has been adopted in July 2022, please report the MPA under core indicators 1.2 and 2.2 instead of 1.1 and 2.1. This also means providing a baseline METT score and the dedicated spreadsheet/ tracking tool.

2-Please explain why the number of hectares reported under core indicator 2 has increased compared to PIF stage. Please also explain why the sum of core indicators 1 and 2 is larger than the numbers in the body of the text or in the map (more than 285,000 ha vs 260,000 ha vs 272,375 ha):

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



3- Please explain under core indicator table to what correspond the 13,571ha reported under core indicator 1 (i.e. terrestrial part of the MPA to our understanding).

4- core indicator 4:

4a- 444, 029 ha are reported under core indicator 4 when the explanation under the core indicator table mentions only 44,029ha. Please correct what appears to be a typo in the 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 (44,029 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

4b - Please explain how the project is to directly change practices over 444,029 ha outside of the protected area. From the description of the alternative scenario, we understand that there will be some landscape management plan supported by some cooperation agreements and some support for alternative livelihoods (AIGA). Please confirm that the anticipated scale of the cooperation agreements and AIGA are deemed sufficient to claim direct impact over 444,029 ha. Please note that the development of a plan is not sufficient to report on core indicator 4.

5- Please assess potential co-benefits for climate mitigation from improved land management, and if non negligible, please include a corresponding target under core indicator 6, with supporting information as per Core Indicator guidelines.

Agency Response

1/12.2023

1. a. The correction is now done in the portal.

1.b. the correction is now made. Right Core Indicator 2.2 is considered and a METT Score of 20% at baseline is included.

24/11/2023

The portal entry is corrected.

11/10/2023

1. The MPA is now reported under Core Indicator 1.2 and 2.2.

METT Score at base line is established at 20% and a Paragraph is included now in Outcome 1.1. description on the METT at the baseline.

The METT Tracking tools is developed and now included in the package.

2. At the PIF, the area of the MPA was reported as 260,000 ha. However, Mapping and the calculation of the area by the Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable reported it at 272,375 ha (see map below). This has been reported as one of the changes from the PIF to PPG.

The figures on the total area are now harmonized.

3. These core indicators are described as follows (descriptions included as footnotes in the CEO Endorsement document):

Core indicator	Description	Example from Grand Bereby
Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management (13,571 ha)	Refers to land-based regions designated or enhanced as protected areas for biodiversity conservation, ecosystem preservation, and sustainable resource use.	A specific mangrove and forest reserve in Grand Bereby designated as a protected area with restricted logging and active conservation efforts like reforestation and mangrove restoration.
Marine protected areas created or under improved management (246,207ha), revised during the PPG to 272,375 hectares	Pertains to the marine region designated or enhanced as protected areas for marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable marine activities.	A marine sanctuary off the coast of Grand Bereby that is established, limiting certain fishing activities and initiating coral reef restoration projects.
Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (444,029 ha)	Refers to land areas adopting better management and sustainable practices, not designated as protected areas.	Agricultural areas that adopt agroforestry, integrating trees into agricultural systems to improve soil quality, reduce erosion, and enhance biodiversity.

4.a. The typo has been corrected from 44,029 ha to 444,029 ha.

4.b. The promotion of sustainable land use practices is discussed in the scenario with GEF funding. This together with enhanced biodiversity conservation, even in some areas outside the MPA will contribute to the envisage hectarage to benefit from SLM.

Beyond the development of plans, there is provision for practical implementation of actions on the ground to achieve meaningful and quantifiable changes. For example, the 5th activity under Output 2.1.2 involves "Implement and monitor selected AIGA options."

5. The project focus is on establishing MPA of 272,375 ha with the terrestrial component accounting only 13,571 ha (5%) of the total area. Given this small portion, the potential climate mitigation co-benefits from improved land management are negligible.

Part II ? Project Justification

1. Is there a sufficient elaboration on how the global environmental/adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers, are going to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/28/2023

1- The description of the biodiversity in Cote d'Ivoire in general and in Grand Bereby in particular is inadequate. It includes false information (e.g. the elaboration states there are lions in coastal ecosystems of Cote d'Ivoire, when lions are considered extinct in the country; it states that there are *Loxodonta africana* when to our understanding the few remaining elephants in the country are forest elephants - i.e. *Loxodonta cyclotis*). Please double check and correct the elaboration on biodiversity, noting that a generic description of the country's biodiversity is not necessary.

2- The PIF review sheet requested that PPG explore the barriers related to the financial sustainability of the MPA. Please revise or explain why no related barriers were identified.

Agency Response

11/15/2023

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1. The description of the biodiversity of GB has been revised. We confirmed that there is no more lion in the Coastal ecosystem of the country. However, there is the lion is not extinct in the country as the presence of savanna lion has been indicated in Comoe National Parc. See Section 2.1 of CEO ER

2. The barrier has been included in Barrier 2 and the titled has been amended:

2. Is there an elaboration on how the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects were derived?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/28/2023 -

1- As requested in the PIF review sheet for PPG, please provide Grand-Bereby MPA creation decree and a detailed baseline of the MPA's operational status.

2- Please provide the lessons learnt from the analysis of past experiences with Community Conservation Agreements that was, according to the PIF, to be carried out during PPG.

Agency Response

15/11/23

1. The Grand Bereby has been established as MPA by the degree adopted by the Government on July 6, 2022.- Please see the link: <https://www.ong-cem.org/annonces>.
2. Lessons learned have been provided under the description of baseline projects, with the title: "Lessons learned from baseline projects." See in section 1.2.

3. Is the proposed alternative scenario as described in PIF/PFD sound and adequate? Is there sufficient clarity on the expected outcomes and components of the project and a description on the project is aiming to achieve them?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

JS 11/29/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/16/2023 -

A- Please see comment on table B on absence of underlying outputs related to PA financial sustainability to underpin outcome 2.1 that is to provide long term financing of the PA, and address accordingly in alternative scenario.

Previous comments are cleared.

JS 8/28/2023 -

1-The PIF review sheet requested that, during PPG, the project contribution to long term MPA financial sustainability be strengthened. It was suggested that the project should contribute to setting up the financial sustainability strategy, technical capacity and tools with the full MPA network in mind, as the PIF announced that a total of 5 MPAs were envisaged in the short/medium term. We note that 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 and that output 1.1.2 is to develop a Business plan. However, it is unclear if the business plan is also to develop funding sources

for the MPA management and if it will be sufficient to ensure its long-term financial sustainability. How will the MPA management be funded?

Please revise or justify why the project is not explicitly dealing with long-term financial sustainability of the MPA itself, i.e. explain how financial sustainability will be ensured without specific project interventions.

2- Please add activities and corresponding budget to go through the Key Biodiversity Area designation process and the WDPA registration process for the MPA.

3- The portal entry refers multiple times to the MPA network and includes activities that seem to be targeted at the MPA network scale. While we encourage this MSP to work directly at the scale of the future network that was presented in the PIF, please clarify in relevant parts of the portal entry what the MPA network is, its current status, and what the project intends to do to support it, beyond the Grand Bereby MPA.

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 MPA network, including the identification of climate-resilient areas that are less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

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 MPA network, with the Grand Bereby MPA seascapes as a pilot. The consideration of gender in the development of these plans and activities will ensure that women and men have equal opportunities.

3- Output 2.1.2. Please clarify (i) how the NGOs/CBOs and the final beneficiaries of the AIGA will be selected, (ii) whether the project is to provide small grants in addition to technical support and training for AIGA, and, if so, (iii) how it will ensure fairness and transparency in the selection of grantees.

Agency Response

24/11/2023

A dedicated Output has been developed to address the lack of a Sustainable Financial Mechanism for Grand Bereby MPA. This is the new Output 2.1.3. Table A and other relevant sections of the CEO ER have been updated accordingly.

15/11/23

1. Yes, part of the business planning is to develop funding sources for the MPA management and if it will be sufficient to ensure its long-term financial sustainability. In Output 2.1.2 and Indicator 10.b the key elements of the envisaged business plan is elaborated. Among others, these include:

a) 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.

b) 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.

c) 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.

In the same Output, the interdependence and complementarity between the business plan and management plan is examined to further cement the relationship between MPA management and the MPA financial sustainability.

--- A segment has been added under Section 7 to address the project's financial sustainability.

2. The activities related to designation of the Key Biodiversity Area have been added as the last activity under Output 1.1.1 and a budget Line is now included for the activity

3. The reference is about future MPA Network as it is said, Grand Bereby as the first MPA of the country will serve as pilot. The project will draw lessons and possible tools to be used by future MPA development.

3. The NGO CEM is a potential partner in the project area and on MPA activities given its experience and current engagement in the MPA protection. (<https://www.ong-cem.org/annonces>.) However, the NGOs/CBOs and final beneficiaries will be selected in close collaboration with representatives of local communities and institutions in the project area. A selection committee with representatives of all key stakeholders will develop terms of reference for the selection and, through an open process, evaluate applicants for project AIGA support, based on alignment with project objectives, economic viability, gender balance, and availability of resources (see Output 2.1.2 where a section has been added titled: "Operationalizing the selection of NGOs/CBOs and final beneficiaries for AIGA and ensuring fairness and transparency in grantee selection?").

(ii) whether the project is to provide small grants in addition to technical support and training for AIGA, and, if so,

Yes, 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.

(iii) how it will ensure fairness and transparency in the selection of grantees.

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.

Outcome 2.1. has been amended in CEO Endorsement document

4. Is there further elaboration on how the project is aligned with focal area/impact program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/29/2023

1- Please streamline this section which is, in the case of this project, is just meant to justify alignment with the BD-2-7 entry point of the GEF-7 BD focal area strategy related to protected areas. Please remove the rest.

Agency Response

15/11/23

The rest of the entry has been removed, leaving only the alignment with GEF-7 BD Focal Area Strategy.

5. Is the incremental reasoning, contribution from the baseline, and co-financing clearly elaborated?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023 -

1- the role of co-financing is not explained. Given the current budget allocations (see comment on budget), please provide notably clarity on the co-financing dedicated to the set-up and day to day management of the PA.

Agency Response

15/11/23

The MPA will be in the National Network of PA and as such it will manage by the Ivorian Office of Parcs and Reserves who will designate a Conservator. The Conservator will work directly with Abidjan Convention as the EA to conduct activities related for the PMA management and development of tools including the Management Plan. This OIPR role will be under the cofinancing. As part of the Network, the MPA will also benefit from the funding provided by the Government to support PA management.

Furthermore, the Abidjan Convention is Managing two projects which will support capacity building of the MPA concerned stakeholders and will support also some investment on the ground including restauration of coastal area of the MPA.

6. Is there further and better elaboration on the project's expected contribution to global environmental benefits or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023 - Please see comments on core indicators in a previous comment box of this review sheet.

Agency Response

15/11/23

The comments on indicators have been addressed above.

7. Is there further and better elaboration to show that the project is innovative and sustainable including the potential for scaling up?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023 -

1- Scaling up: Please be more precise on how the project has been designed to facilitate the future establishment of the MPA network announced in the PIF.

Agency Response

15/11/23

The potential for scaling up has been revised to address the need to facilitate future establishment of the MPA network. See Section 7.

Project Map and Coordinates

Is there an accurate and confirmed geo-referenced information where the project intervention will take place?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/24/2023: We note the maps provided with coordinates.

Please consider inserting the geographic location of the site directly under the dedicated data entry field ?GEO LOCATION INFORMATION? ? it is left blank. This includes the Location Name, Latitude and Longitude.

Agency Response

15/11/23

The location name, and coordinates (latitude and longitude) have been inserted under the dedicated data entry field.

Child Project

If this is a child project, is there an adequate reflection of how it contributes to the overall program impact?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the project include detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase? Is there an adequate stakeholder engagement plan or equivalent documentation for the implementation phase, with information on Stakeholders who will be engaged, the means of engagement, and dissemination of information?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/1/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/29/2023

2- We failed to find any new annexed document detailing consultations carried out during PPG and the text in the portal entry provides only limited information on these. Please provide the announced report/annex.

1- Will be reassessed when the annex detailing consultations is provided.


3- Cleared.


JS 11/16/2023 -

1- Thank you. However, IPLC are still not tagged as having been consulted in the portal. Please clarify if they were consulted and correct accordingly:

2. Stakeholders

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

Civil Society Organizations  Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities 

Private Sector Entities Yes

2- Thank you but the attached stakeholder consultation report is from another project in Lesotho. Please provide for this project.

3- The short bullet-point elaboration pasted in the portal under the title "Stakeholder engagement plan" does not constitute an adequate Stakeholder Engagement Plan as defined in GEF Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines (SD/GN/01). Please provide a fully developed Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

JS 9/11/2023

1- Please explain why IPLC have not been involved in consultations in the design phase, when it was reported they were involved in the identification phase:

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

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Indigenous Peoples and local Communities are mentioned sporadically in the portal entry and are not tagged in the Annex G/Project taxonomy when their presence and participation was highlighted in the PIF. Please explain and revise as needed.

2- Please provide a detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase.

2- Please provide the stakeholder engagement plan, we failed to find it with the submission, including section 2.5 (Stakeholder mapping and analysis) that is mentioned in the portal entry but not available. Likewise, please provide all the documents developed during PPG that are mentioned in this section (analysis of institutional/capacity building and awareness raising; environmental; as well as socioeconomic and gender contexts; Stakeholder mapping and analysis).

Agency Response

1/12/2023

2. The annexes are now attached.

1. Noted, with the hope the annexes will be satisfactory.

24/11/2023

1. IPLC are now tagged in the portal.

2. The Agency apologies for the mixed-up. The correct report is now attached in the portal.

3. The SEP has been reworked to better align with the GEF Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines (SD/GN/01). The minimum requirements in page 11 and 12 of this document have been met and efforts made to go beyond these minimum requirements.

15/11/23

Indigenous Peoples and local Communities are mentioned.

1- Indigenous people were among the stakeholders consulted during the PPG. They are identified in the stakeholder table under Section 2. Three specific indigenous groups engaged are also indicated under Section 6 (The Kroumen; The Dan; The Gu?r?).

Please provide a detailed report on stakeholders engaged during the design phase.

Submitted during the first submission and resubmitted now.

Please provide the stakeholder engagement plan

The stakeholder engagement plan is found under Section 6 ?Stakeholder Participation.?

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023

1- We note the Gender Action Plan (GAP) provided. However,

1a- Many of the 17 actions identified in it are not included as outputs or activities described in the alternative scenario. Please revise to ensure that the GAP contains only actions that will be carried out and that these actions are duly included in the alternative scenario and in the budget.

1b- Please explain how the GAP will be monitored and reviewed.

Agency Response

15/11/23

1a- A full scenario analysis has been included under Section 3. Besides other things, it ensures that the project gives a strategic level attention to GAP actions.

The budget has many activities (see under the Budget Line Work) which will support implementation of the GAP.

1b- There is a Gender Expert that is included as an integral position in the Project Management Unit. Part of the duties of the Gender Expert is to "Monitor and report on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.". Furthermore, the PIR has a mandatory section on gender reporting. The UNEP Task Manager will ensure that the section is duly completed during each PIR process.

Private Sector Engagement

If there is a private sector engagement, is there an elaboration of its role as a financier and/or as a stakeholder?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023

1- We note the Private Sector Engagement Plan (PSEP) provided. However,

1a- Many of the 11 actions identified in it are not explicitly included as outputs or activities described in the alternative scenario. Please revise to ensure that the PSEP contains only actions that will be carried out and that these actions are duly included in the alternative scenario and in the budget.

1b- Please explain how the PSEP will be monitored and reviewed.

Agency Response

15/11/23

1a- The actions indicated in PSEP are derived from specific project activities. For an example, Project Activity 12. Conduct stakeholder analysis to identify potential private sector partners for cooperation agreements; and raise awareness. And Activity 29. Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify relevant community members, government agencies, and private sector representatives to be involved in the feasibility study.

They will have the following related PSEP action: Action 1.1: Conduct stakeholder mapping to identify key private sector actors who could contribute to the MPA management plan. Action 1.3: Facilitate the participation of private sector representatives in the development of the MPA management plan. Action 2.1: Conduct feasibility studies for conservation investment projects in the Grand-Bany MPA. Action 3.2: Organize training sessions for private sector actors on the implementation of biodiversity-friendly practices.

1b- A section has been added under the PESP describing how it will be monitored and reviewed. The section is titled: "Monitoring and Review of the Private Sector Engagement Plan (PSEP)". Furthermore, during the PIR process the involvement of Private Sector will be reported.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Has the project elaborated on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved? Were there proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/16/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023

1- Please update the table and remove the duplicative rows on climate change:

Risk of climate change impacts	Medium	Utilize comprehensive climate change analysis resources, such as the Climate Risk Profile of Côte d'Ivoire, during the PPG phase to provide a comprehensive climate change screening and agree upon measures with key stakeholders.
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2- Please see other comments in this review sheet on financial sustainability, and clarify what is the "sustainable financing strategy for the MPA" as it does not appear as an output or activity in the alternative scenario:

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.
---	------	--

Agency Response

15/11/23

1- The table has been updated and the duplicative row on climate change risks removed.

2- A strategy for financial sustainability has been developed and presented in Section 7.

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project implementation fully described? Is there an elaboration on possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project area?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/1/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/28/2023

1- This comment has not been addressed. We failed to find the letter. Please upload.

JS 11/15/2023

1- Please upload in the portal the announced letter of support from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Cote d'Ivoire for the use of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat as EA for this project. We note that this letter was provided by email separately, but please upload also in the portal.

JS 8/31/2023

1- The LoE and PIF foresaw that project would be executed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Cote d'Ivoire. In the Budget provided with this submission, the Ministry's is still identified as the EA. Yet this section of the portal entry states that the EA is the Abidjan Convention Secretariat.

1a - Please (i) explain why the executing arrangements have changed, (ii) justify the added-value of the Abidjan Convention Secretariat as an EA when the Office of Parks and Reserves is to manage the targeted MPA, there is no transboundary aspect in this project and a national agencies would seem more adequate to ensure national ownership and capacity building, and (iii) confirm the OFP has been informed and agreed with these new execution arrangements.

1b - If the Abidjan Convention Secretariat is to be maintained as the EA, please correct inconsistencies in the portal entry and in the budget.

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
--------------------	--

2- Please justify why the PMU is to be located in Abidjan, when the entire project is to take place in Grand Bereby.

3- Please remove the duplicative sections that were already included in the Stakeholder engagement section.

Agency Response

1/12/2023

The letter is uploaded.

24/11/2023

The letter is now uploaded in the Portal.

15/11/23

1. The use of Abidjan Convention as the EA is a request from the Ministry of Environment (letter attached) based on the idea that Abidjan Convention working with 25 countries having coastal areas and MPA already established, the Ministry will gain the experience working with the Convention. Furthermore, the Convention having experience with UNEP Funds management and reporting, it will be a smooth process in the project financial flows and execution of the planned activities. The Convention has a long history of working with OIPR which will help in the smooth project execution.

The reference to the Ministry in the budget is now removed.

2- The lack of adequate infrastructures at the project site is a limitation for a PMU to be functional. The project will establish a focal person in the project area and will ensure adequate communication with the Abidjan Convention.

3- In Section 2, the stakeholder consultation, the mandate of each stakeholder is defined. In Section 6 ?Stakeholder participation? their roles in the project are defined.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project described the alignment of the project with identified national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under the relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 8/31/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response
Knowledge Management

Is the proposed ?Knowledge Management Approach? for the project adequately elaborated with a timeline and a set of deliverables?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
JS 8/31/2023 - Cleared.

Agency Response
Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

Are environmental and social risks, impacts and management measures adequately documented at this stage and consistent with requirements set out in SD/PL/03?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
JS 12/1/2023 - Cleared. We note the revision to moderate risk in the updated SRIF.

JS 11/29/2023

The SRIF and the updated "Safeguard Risk Assessment" provided are still inconsistent. All risks are low or N/A in the SRIF when several risk categories are rated as moderate (e.g. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency; Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement) and Economic Displacement and Restrictions on Land/Water Use rated as High in the "Safeguard Risk Assessment".

- Given the responses provided below in the review sheet in previous iterations, it seems incorrect that the SRIF would not identify any risk associated to IPLCs and to, at least, economic displacement. Please correct or explain why it is not the case.

- Please revise the SRIF and/or Risk assessment to ensure consistency.

JS 11/15/2023

Thank you for the responses, however:

- The attached document entitled "Safeguard Risk Assessment" appears far less comprehensive than the SRIF provided and does not seem to correspond to a vetted ESS document according to the Agency's procedures. It is also no consistent with the SRIF provided. For instance, the "Safeguard Risk Assessment" shows a Low risk rating to the "Indigenous Peoples" risk category when it is N/A in the SRIF.

- Despite the response below, neither the SRIF nor the "Safeguard Risk Assessment" identify any risk related to economic displacement, restrictions on land/water use.

- Despite the response below, the SRIF does not identify any risk related to indigenous peoples and none of the provided documents clarify mitigation measures.

A - Please provide consistent ESS assessments and management measures, including with regards related to economic displacement, restrictions on land/water use and to indigenous peoples.

JS 8/24/2023

We note the attached SRIF and the low-risk rating.

1- Please provide the Safeguard risk assessment or impact assessment that, according to the SRIF, has been developed.

2- Please revise or explain why it is considered that the project, which is about a new MPA, does not pose any risk related to economic displacement or restrictions on land/water use.

3- Please revise or explain why it is considered that the project does not pose any risk related to the Indigenous People Safeguard Standard, when IPs have been identified in the area.

Agency Response

1/12/2023

An updated SRIF has been uploaded considering the guidance provided.

24/11/2023

A revised version of the "Safeguard Risk Assessment" has been developed that provides consistency and alignment with the ESS. It is attached.

15/11/23

1- A Safeguard Risk Assessment has been provided (attached)

2- The risk of economic displacement has been flagged and appropriate mitigation measure presented. Mitigation: ?Provide fair compensation for lost assets, offer training for alternative

livelihoods, assist with relocation to suitable areas, and regularly engage with affected stakeholders to align project strategies with their needs.?

3- The potential risk to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples has also been flagged and mitigation measures provided. Mitigation: ?Conduct a Cultural Impact Assessment, ensure their active participation in decision-making, allocate resources for cultural heritage protection, support their cultural preservation initiatives, and promote broader public awareness of their cultural significance.?

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/31/2023 -

1- Please remove duplicative text and all generic text on project evaluation that does not apply specifically to this project.

2- Proposed M&E budget is \$133,000, that is more than 11% of GEF project components financing. It is thus significantly above the 5% indicative threshold for projects under \$5 million. Please reduce to under \$60,000. Part of the reason for the budget overshoot is that some items listed as M&E are actually related to project management or KM (e.g. Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents) and should not be covered by the M&E budget. Please refer to Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy and revise.

Agency Response

1- Addressed

2- M&E budget now reviewed at \$57,000

Benefits

Are the socioeconomic benefits at the national and local levels sufficiently described resulting from the project? Is there an elaboration on how these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of GEBs or adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/28/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/15/2023 -

2- budget:

Several items are not charged under the correct category: (i) monitoring and evaluation officer; (ii) Mid-term evaluation; (iii) Terminal evaluation; and (iv) Tracking of indicators should be charged to M&E, not to PMC. The column 'M&E', which is empty in this submission, must match with the M&E budget table in Section 9 (\$57,000). Please revise by removing these items from PMC and adding them under M&E. Changes have to be reflected in all tables (Table B 'M&E' Budget Table).

	Monitoring and Evaluation officer					18,000	18,000	AbC
	Finance Officer					12,000	12,000	AbC
Trainings, Workshops, Meetings	Inception Workshop					2,000	2,000	AbC
	Conduct training to increase institutional, technical capacity of OIPR, relevant public, municipal and private sector institutions	34,000			44,000		44,000	AbC
	Develop gender sensitive awareness and advocacy material	25,000			25,000		25,000	AbC
	Project Steering Committee meetings				0	7,000	7,000	AbC
Travel	Travel on official business (in-country)						0	AbC
	...						0	AbC
Office Supplies	Stationery and sundry				0	2,500	2,500	AbC
	Non exp equipments				0	500	500	AbC
Other Operating Costs	Mid-term Evaluation				0	12,000	12,000	AbC
	Terminal Evaluation				0	15,000	15,000	AbC
	Tracking of Indicators				0	19,000	19,000	AbC
Grand Total		400,000	650,000	150,000	0	120,000	1,230,000	AbC

The rest is cleared.

JS 9/11/2023

1- Please provide the agency project document or confirm that the GEF CEO endorsement template will be used in the agency's internal processes.

2-Budget:

2a- The project objective is to increase the management effectiveness of the Grand-Bereby MPA. However, out of \$1,200,000 of project financing, very little (\$71,000) is directly

devoted to the basic building blocks of management effectiveness. Most of the budget is dedicated to business plans, AIGA and promotion of sustainable practices. While these have of course merits, they cannot replace the necessary set up of a well equipped and capacitated PA management board and PA management team, underpinned by properly scaled financial mechanisms.

Please revise the budget in line with the project objective or explain how co-financing will make the PA fully operational.

In doing so, please make sure that all activities are budgeted for. For example, we did not see what budget line would cover output 3.1.2 or part of output 1.1.2 (financial mechanism within the framework of FPRC and governance structure established).

2b. There are two budget tables included in the portal. Please provide a single, final budget table. In doing so, please eliminate the 'year' columns that are in the first table and make sure to include the column 'Responsible entity' that is currently the second table.

2c- We note that there is no budget for the financial audits. Please confirm that they will be co-financed.

Agency Response

24/11/2023

The budget has been adjusted to address the comments and as per the guidance.

15/11/23

1. As this project is an MSP, effort has been done to ensure that all necessary information are provided in the CEO Endorsement document. UNEP confirms that the CEO endorsement will be used in the internal process.

2.a. Addressed in the revised budget

2.b. addressed

2.c. Confirmed that the audit will be covered by cofinancing from Abidjan Convention

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

IS 12/1/2023 - Cleared.

JS 11/29/2023

A- Thank you, but for the rows corresponding to core indicators 1 and 2 in the Results Framework please include the METT Baseline score and target METT scores at mid-term and end of project.

The rest is cleared.

We note with concern the response on the absence at CEO endorsement stage of a "proper consolidated project monitoring framework". We urge that it be developed in the very first stage of project implementation. How Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (core indicator 4.1) will be measured in practice in the context of this project should notably be clarified at the onset.

JS 11/16/2023

1-Thank you, but the request was to add the project's GEF core indicator targets in the project's Results Framework. None of the targets on Core Indicators 1,2,4 and 11 appear in the Results Framework. Please include all the relevant core indicators and their targets in the Results Framework.

2- Thank you for the METT. However, we continue to note that most indicators in the Results Framework do not have a baseline. Please clarify why these have not been established during PPG and explain plans to establish all baseline in the very first phase of implementation.

3- Please include an indicator to measure the project's contribution to PA financial sustainability in the Results Framework. We note that an indicator has been included in table B (log-frame) under outcome 2.1 but (i) it is not reflected in the Results Framework, (ii) it is placed under outcome 2.1 when there is not underlying output or activity in component 2 related to PA financial sustainability, and (iii) the target proposed in table B (*At least 10% of revenue generated through valorization of the GB MPA resources*) is not consistent with the proposed indicator (*Number of financial mechanisms [...]*).

3- We failed to find any additional information on the monitoring framework when many proposed indicators seem challenging to measure and have targets that are not consistent with the indicator (e.g. indicator "*Impact (change in behaviors, practices) resulting from the implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring indicators.*" would have a end-of-project target of "10"). At CEO endorsement request stage, their should be clarity on the description of indicators and targets, data source/Collection Methods, and responsible entity for each indicator. Please provide this information, either as part of the Results Framework or through a separate table detailing the monitoring framework. How Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (core indicator 4.1) will be measured in practice in the context of this project should notably be clarified.

A- Please ensure consistency between the indicators shown in table B and the Results Framework.

JS 9/1/2023

1- Please include in the project Results Framework all GEF core indicators under which the project has a target. For core indicators 1 and 2, this notably means adding an indicator and targets at mid-term and end of project on the protected area's METT score.

2- Please clarify why many of the baselines have not been established during PPG, noting that the baseline METT score is required at CEO endorsement stage.

3- Please consider replacing indicators of means that merely capture whether an output/activity was delivered (e.g. number of consultation meetings) by indicators that actually measure progress towards the outcome.

3a- For instance, the current indicators for outcome 1.1 " Institutional, Regulatory Framework and Technical capacity Established" do not measure "technical capacity", and do not really assess progress on the institutional framework. We also recommend including an indicator related to PA financial sustainability.

3b - Likewise, no indicator under outcome 3.1 "Improved stakeholder capacities for the management and monitoring" measures stakeholder capacity for MPA management. Indicator 13 relates only to monitoring and evaluation.

Agency Response

1/12/2023

A. Addressed in the Result Framework

Concerning the M&E framework, we took note of the guidance and the Agency would like to ensure that an M&E framework will be developed in the working group and validated before the inception workshop. The said Framework will be presented during the inception workshop.

In the meantime the costed M&E table provides the basic elements of the monitoring framework and the section on evaluation provides the UNEP evaluation standards

Regarding how area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (core indicator 4.1) will be measured in practice in the context of this project, the UNEP would like to recall that the development of the MPA Management Plan is at the core of this project.

Once developed at early stage of the project, the implementation will start immediately, and the METT will be assessed at the Middle Term, at the end of the project and during PIR process progress will be reported regularly.

24/11/2023

1. All 4 core indicators are now included in the results framework
2. Yes indeed, many of them do not have a baseline. The resources available for the baseline assessments during the PPG were not sufficient to undertake the critical baseline assessments necessary to establish these baselines. A complementary baseline data collection will be priority activity upon project launch and the goal will be to establish these baselines at the early stage of the project to ensure indicators monitoring and reporting.
3. The indicator to assess number of financial mechanisms in Outcome 2.1 has been revised. It will instead be there to assess the effectiveness of the financial mechanism (now in Output 2.1.3.). It has been revised in Table B, and added to the log-frame.
4. There is no single monitoring framework designed to cover the entire project. Instead these monitoring protocols are distributed throughout Outputs where appropriate. You can see these in the different activity sets associated to these Outputs. For example:
 - ? Output 1.1.5: Activity 28. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the awareness and advocacy campaign
 - ? Output 2.1.2: Activity 35. Evaluate and monitor selected AIGA options
 - ? Output 2.1.3: Activity 41. Establish Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms for the Financial Mechanism
 - ? Output 3.1.2: Activity 48. Train relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the monitoring protocol; and Establish a system for regular data collection, analysis, and reporting using the monitoring protocol
 - ? Output 3.1.3: Activity 53. Conduct regular monitoring and evaluation activitiesHowever a proper consolidated project monitoring framework will be developed at inception in collaboration with all the stakeholders. The framework will guide the project implementation and reporting.
5. The consistency between indicators in Table B and the log-frame have been checked and revised. The discrepancy in numbering has been adjusted. This discrepancy occurs because in the log-frame, we have project indicators that do not feature in Table B where we have indicators tied to the components in which they are associated. The numbering from the log-frame has been used to ensure that indicators have unique numbers throughout the document.

-
1. Addressed. Indicators are now included in Table B. The METT targets are included at baseline, Middle Term and End of Project
 2. Addressed in the Project Framework Table B.
 - 3a ? Indicators under Outcome 3.1 have been revised to be the following:
 - Indicator 11: Impact (change in behaviors, practices) resulting from the implementation of gender-sensitive monitoring indicators.
 - Target: 80% of the targeted stakeholders demonstrate improved gender-sensitive behaviors and practices as a result of using the identified monitoring indicators.

Indicator 12: 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.

Target: At least 70% of project activities demonstrate adaptability based on gender-sensitive indicator feedback.

Indicator 13: Enhancement in decision-making quality among project stakeholders as a result of improved understanding and use of gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools.

Target: 85% of stakeholders report that gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation tools have positively influenced their decision-making processes within the project context.

3b ? A new indicator measuring stakeholder capacity for MPA management has been added.

It is:

Indicator 14: Percentage of stakeholders demonstrating enhanced skills and capabilities in MPA management practices post-training and capacity-building sessions.

Target: At least 90% of trained stakeholders exhibit improved capacity and effective MPA management practices within 12 months post-training.

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 11/15/2023 - Cleared.

JS 8/29/2023

1- we note the responses provided to a subset of the comments made in the PIF review sheet at the time of approval for consideration during PPG. Please explain how the followings have been addressed.

It was requested that during PPG, the following be addressed:

- streamline output formulations, which are currently overloaded and blur the project logic
- strengthen the project contribution to long term MPA financial sustainability. The project should contribute to setting up the financial sustainability strategy, technical capacity and tools with the full MPA network in mind.
- please reassess the target on core indicator 4 as only direct impacts resulting from the project should be included. In particular, the development of a plan without implementation support is not sufficient to report on core indicator 4.
- refine the root cause analysis, which should also be linked to marine-based threats identified in the PIF

- refine the barrier analysis, notably clearly separate and further specify the barriers related to policies from those related to institutions, and explore the barriers related to MPA sustainable financing.

-At CEO approval request, please provide the Grand-Berby MPA creation decree and a detailed baseline of the MPA's operational status. We note that PPG will conduct an analysis of past experiences with Community Conservation Agreements.

-refine the ToC. While there remains diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: <https://www.stapgef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer>

- please pay specific attention to sustainability and fostering replicability for the 4 other planned MPAs

- please develop a stakeholder engagement plan in full alignment with the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and on environmental and social safeguards.

Agency Response

15/11/23

Agency response in yellow under it comment:

- streamline output formulations, which are currently overloaded and blur the project logic.

The project Output formulations have been streamlined. Attention was made not to alter the original intentions of the Outputs, rather to make them more informative and concise. This is a table of the original Outputs and the streamlined version:

Original Project Outputs	Streamlined Version
1.1.1. Communities participation activities in the MPA management and a multi-sectoral Platform...	1.1.1. Establish a multi-sectoral platform, including community participation, to address marine biodiversity loss in Grand Beriby landscape/seascapes.
1.1.2. Grand Beriby Marine Protected Area (MPA)...	1.1.2. Develop climate-resilient management and business plans for Grand Beriby MPA with a focus on technical, capacity, and gender considerations.
1.1.3. Two to Three Cooperation agreements...	1.1.3. Negotiate 2-3 agreements between OIPR and various sectors to support Grand-Berby MPA management.
1.1.4. Gender sensitive training sessions conducted...	1.1.4. Conduct gender-sensitive trainings and develop tools to enhance the capacity of stakeholders for MPA management.

Original Project Outputs	Streamlined Version
1.1.5. Gender sensitive awareness and advocacy material...	1.1.5. Produce and implement gender-sensitive awareness materials for GB MPA management.
2.1.1 Gender-sensitive Feasibility study...	2.1.1. Conduct a gender-sensitive feasibility study on valorizing Grand Bereby's marine landscapes in support of management plans.
2.1.2. Climate Smart and gender-sensitive Alternative Income...	2.1.2. Identify and implement gender-sensitive, climate-smart income alternatives through small-scale funding.
3.1.1. Developed and disseminated gender-sensitive knowledge...	3.1.1. Disseminate gender-sensitive materials to promote sustainable management of Grand Bereby MPA.
3.1.2. Grand Bereby MPA monitoring protocol...	3.1.2. Establish a gender-sensitive monitoring protocol for Grand Bereby MPA.
3.1.3. A functional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System...	3.1.3. Implement a gender-sensitive Project Monitoring and Evaluation System.

- strengthen the project contribution to long term MPA financial sustainability. The project should contribute to setting up the financial sustainability strategy, technical capacity and tools with the full MPA network in mind.

A segment has been added under Section 7 to address the project's financial sustainability and Target 10.b has been added to track the financial sustainability

- please reassess the target on core indicator 4 as only direct impacts resulting from the project should be included. In particular, the development of a plan without implementation support is not sufficient to report on core indicator 4.

Indicator No. 4 has been revised. Please see project description summary table.

- refine the root cause analysis, which should also be linked to marine-based threats identified in the PIF.

The root causes have been developed to be aligned to marine based threats identified during the PIF.

- refine the barrier analysis, notably clearly separate and further specify the barriers related to policies from those related to institutions, and explore the barriers related to MPA sustainable financing.

Barriers have been developed to relate to policies from those related to institutions. An additional barrier related to MPA sustainable financing has been added. The barriers currently include the following:

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

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

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

-At CEO approval request, please provide the Grand-Bereby MPA creation decree and a detailed baseline of the MPA's operational status.

The reference announcing the creation by decree of 6th July 2022 was provided above.

The baseline section has been amended. See in Yellow

We note that PPG will conduct an analysis of past experiences with Community Conservation Agreements.

-refine the ToC. While there remains diverse ways of presenting a ToC, key issues are to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative, the causal pathways by which interventions are expected to have the desired effect and the justification that these causal pathways are necessary and sufficient. Please refer to STAP's guidance: <https://www.stagef.org/resources/advisory-documents/theory-change-primer>.

The theory of change has been revised to communicate clearly, through a diagram and a narrative based on the STAP guidelines. See Section 3.

- please pay specific attention to sustainability and fostering replicability for the 4 other planned MPAs

The potential for replicability has been discussed in Section 7. Key elements of these have been identified as: Stakeholder Engagement and Participatory Decision-making; Capacity Building at the Local Level; Knowledge Management and Research; Sustainable Economic Development; Community Involvement and Equitable Benefit Sharing; Research Program Insights; and Regional Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange. Grand Bereby has been consider as pilot and a financial mechanism using this pilot will be established by the project?

- please develop a stakeholder engagement plan in full alignment with the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement and on environmental and social safeguards.

The stakeholder engagement plan has been revised to be in full alignment with the GEF policies on stakeholder engagement. See Section 2.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request Cleared.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request See comment in similar comment box above.

Agency Response

Does the termsheet in Annex F provide finalized financial terms and conditions? Does the termsheet and financial structure address concerns raised at PIF stage and that were pending to be resolved ahead of CEO endorsement? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

NA

Agency Response

Do the Reflow Table Annex G and the Trustee Excel Sheet for reflows provide accurate reflow expectations of the project submitted? Assumptions for Reflows can be submitted to explain expected reflows. (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

Did the agency Annex H provided with information to assess the Agency Capacity to generate and manage reflows? (For NGI Only)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request NA

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

Is CEO endorsement recommended? (applies only to projects and child projects)

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

JS 12/1/2023 - The project is recommended for endorsement.

JS 11/29/2023- Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.

JS 11/15/2023- Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit.

JS 9/1/2023 - Not at this stage. Please address comments included in this review sheet and resubmit. Please contact jsapijanskas@thegef.org for any clarification.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	9/11/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/15/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		
Additional Review (as necessary)		

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat comments**

Additional Review (as necessary)

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations