



Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10997

Countries

Comoros

Project Name

Strengthening the Resilience of Climate-Smart Agricultural Systems and Value Chains in the Union of Comoros

Agencies

UNDP

Date received by PM

12/7/2023

Review completed by PM

5/30/2024

Program Manager

Fareeha Iqbal

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

FSP

**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

5/29/2024:

Cleared.

1/3/2024:

Adjustment is requested.

As stated at PIF stage, CCA-3 (of the GEF-7 Adaptation Strategy) should not be included in Table A. Please remove.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

The CCA-3 allocation has been removed from the CEO ER, the entire allocation is now under CCA-1.

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 1/16/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request n/a

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 1/3/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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 1/3/2024:

Yes.

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 6/7/2024:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 6/4/2024:

Further information is requested:

The PPG report does not include detailed information about PPG activities by eligible expenditure categories (as included in Guidelines) - please revise accordingly:

1/3/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

?UNDP, 6/6/2024: The PPG utilization status was updated in the portal to include more detailed information PPG activities by eligible expenditure categories:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: 200,000			
<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>
International consultancy firm contracted to develop UNDP-GEF project and inclusive of the below listed profiles: ? Local and international travel ? Gender and? stakeholder engagement consultancy ? International Social and Environmental Safeguards Consultancy	179,980	152,983	26,997
Inception and validation workshops	13,915.97	11,959.18	1,956.79
Local and international travel	6,104.03	6,104.03	0
Total	200,000	171,046.21	28,953.79

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 Request5/29/2024:

Cleared, thank you.

1/3/2024:

Not yet.

(a) Values are missing in the Portal table for LDCF Core Indicators 1, 2 and 3. Please ensure that impact is not reduced since PIF stage estimates.

(b) Please upload the excel file with sub-indicator values for the LDCF.

(c) Meta-indicators: Comoros is on the World Bank 2024 list of countries in Fragile and Conflict-Affected situations, for institutional and social fragility. Could you please change the the relevant value to "true" in the meta-indicators list?

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

a) Portal was updated to include missing values. Core Indicator 1, 2 and 3 were increased or unchanged. Core Indicator 4 (Total number of people trained) was found inadequate and unrealistic in the context of Comoros. Based on assessments conducted during the PPG, the target for Core Indicator 4 was reduced from 24,443 to 14,440 as a result, while the target for Core Indicator 1 (Number of direct beneficiaries) was revised to 108,000 from 98,188 to 108,000.

b) The Excel file has been uploaded in the Portal.

c) Meta-indicator for Fragile and Conflict Affected situations has been marked as ?True?.

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

5/29/2024:

Cleared, thank you.

1/16/2024:

Further information is requested.

Please include in the Portal entry a somewhat expanded analysis of climate change projections for Comoros (using at least two climate change scenarios) and please relate this information to the selection of the agricultural value chains chosen for this adaptation project.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

Information on climate scenarios used has been added, and the text further clarified.

Reference to Annex 11 of the PRODOC ? where more details can be found - has been made clearer. In addition, a summary table has been added under Output 2.1 that presents climate vulnerability and advantages of each value chains for project impacts.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1/16/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

5/29/24:

Cleared.

1/3/2024:

Further information is requested.

Please discuss which value chains will be focused on in this project, and the climate and relevant non-climate risks and constraints being faced by these value chains. The PIF included some relevant information, but we would expect deeper detail at this stage on the specific value chains, their vulnerabilities, and activities to build resilience in each.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

Building on information included in the PIF and further informed by technical studies conducted during the PPG phase, 3 staple crops (plantain, cassava and sweet potato) and 4 cash crops (ginger, black pepper, turmeric, coffee) have been selected for focus during implementation (also added in Prodoc Section III). A comparative summary presenting the current situation of each selected value chain, their vulnerabilities with regards to climate factors and adaptation strategies has been added in Section IV of the PRODOC.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1/3/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

1/16/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

1/3/2024:

Yes, it will contribute to climate resilience and adaptation in Comoros, in line with the GEF Adaptation strategy for 2018-22.

Agency Response

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

1/16/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

1/16/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

n/a

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

1/16/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

6/7/2024:

Cleared.

GEF Sec, 6/4/2024:

Adjustments are requested:

- As per GEF guidance, please ensure that the outputs and activities developed in the gender action plan are also integrated in the project components, outcomes and outputs.
- In this regard, the Agency is requested that i) needs, plans and mechanisms developed are gender responsive (e.g., Outputs 1.1, 1.4, 2.1, 3.4), ii) women and gender experts meaningfully participate in trainings (e.g., Outputs 1.2, 1.3, 2.3 and 3.1.).

1/3/2024:

Yes. Gender equality is a significant objective of the project. A Gender Action Plan was developed during PPG to aim at ensuring gender mainstreaming. The project aims at empowering women and girls, ensuring their equitable representation and engagement in project activities, and capacity building.

Agency Response

UNDP, 6/6/2024: Under each component, activities from the Gender Action Plan have been mentioned under relevant outputs as follows

Component 1: A gender and diversity responsive approach will be guaranteed through activities developed in the Gender Action Plan, that will ensure that women and People with Disabilities (PWDs) are consulted in the identification of needs for capacity building activities planned under Component 1 (Output 1.1 in particular). The level of literacy in the targeted value chains and project's area will be assessed, to identify the gaps (especially for women and PWDs) for accessing to trainings and information management system; the information will be shared with existing regional programs or NGOs/federations/associations programs on alphabetization or other programs for women, PWDs, and youth, to facilitate women, PWDs and youth access to project activities. Meaningful participation of women to trainings will be ensured also through the identification of gaps and obstacles for a woman in accessing to benefits in the identified

value chains (Outputs 1.2 and 1.3). Women, PWDs and youth will be trained on technical, managerial and safeguards aspects and will be supported through mentoring and coaching on project's financial aspects. In output 1.4, women's and PWDs involvement in the definition and the delivery of gender responsive plans on climate-resilient agricultural land-use will be a key aspect of this participatory land-use planning exercise.

Component 2: To ensure the implementation of a gender responsive approach in the preparation of the value chain development plans (Output 2.1), the private sector stakeholders will be informed on Gender mainstreaming in project's implementation and on UNDP and GEF standards.

Women will be involved in trainings planned under Component 2, and the access to trainings to women, PWDs and youth who are not literates will be facilitated.

Specific attention will be paid to the inclusion of women producers and buyers (and PWDs) in the design of the action plan for the digital platform connecting agricultural producers and buyers (Output 2.3). A gender responsive approach and the meaningful participation of women to activities planned under Component 3 will be ensured by several Gender Action Plan activities, including: (1) women involvement as staff members of the CRDEs, (2) women participation as key stakeholders in the CRDEs meetings, (3) women access to agricultural inputs and small-scale equipment, and financial products to support the adoption of climate-resilient practices (outputs 3.1 and 3.4).

Component 3: A gender responsive approach and the meaningful participation of women to activities planned under Component 3 will be ensured by several Gender Action Plan activities, including: (1) women involvement as staff members of the CRDEs, (2) women participation as key stakeholders in the CRDEs meetings, (3) women access to agricultural inputs and small-scale equipment, and financial products to support the adoption of climate-resilient practices (outputs 3.1 and 3.4).

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

1/3/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

1/3/2024:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

5/29/24:

Cleared.

1/3/2024:

Further information is requested.

(a) Institutional coordination: If the UNDP will be involved in any aspects of project execution, please ensure the appropriate steps are taken, as laid out in GEF policy, regarding necessary correspondence in advance, with the GEF Secretariat.

(b) Coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives: this information is missing from the Portal entry. Kindly include. Please include in this section a brief para on coordination with GCF projects.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

a) The DNSAE (Ministry of Environment, Agriculture, and Forests - MEAF), which is the governmental organization responsible for implementing this project as an executing partner, underwent a HACT micro-assessment in February 2024, resulting in an overall rating of "Low Risk," with six out of seven domains assessed as "Low Risk" and one domain (Financial Reporting and Monitoring) assessed as "Moderate Risk." As a result, execution support will no longer be required for this project. The CEO ER and UNDP Prodoc have been revised to remove all references to execution support. The additional cost for execution support by UNDP was removed from the PMC, and the difference was re-allocated across the PMC and under Component 1 and 3.

b) Coordination with other GEF and with GCF projects mentioned in section 1a-2/Baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects of the CEO endorsement document.

?UNDP/GEF Biodiversity protection through the Effective Management of the National Network of Protected Areas (2022-2027)?

The Green Climate Fund/UNDP project (GCF-Water) (2019-2027) aims at strengthening a climate-resilient water supply and irrigation in 15 vulnerable areas in Comoros, covering 7 of the 8 CRDEs targeted by the LDCF project. As such, GCF investments will directly contribute to LDCF Outcome 3 achievement, through water supply for production. It will be completed by the LDCF project to reach farmers' pots for irrigation, and to achieve water supply in Mledjele CRDE currently not covered by GCF interventions

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

1/3/24:

Yes, it is aligned with the National Agricultural Investment Plan (2020-2024) as well as with the country's NDC (2022).

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

5/29/24:

Cleared.

1/3/24:

Further information is requested.

Please provide further information on the Knowledge Management Plan, including on target beneficiaries, modes of dissemination and exchange, provisions for updating the information based on emerging knowledge, and opportunities to capture knowledge for subsequent scale-up and/or replication.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

Specific paragraphs were added to the Knowledge Management section of the CEO endorsement Request in the relevant section on Knowledge management.

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

5/29/24:

Cleared; the requested information is included in the Risk matrix.

1/16/24:

Further information is requested.

The ESS Form has been uploaded.

Please provide an analysis of the likely impacts of climate change in the medium term in Comoros for the main value chains under consideration, and how these risks will be mitigated.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

This has been further clarified in Section II as mentioned above, and this information has been reported into the CEO Endorsement request. A summary table has been added under Output 2.1 description in the Prodoc that presents climate vulnerability and advantages of each value chains for project impacts.

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

1/16/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

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

1/3/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/7/2024:

Cleared.

6/4/2024:

Adjustment is requested.

a) The budget table cut and paste in the Portal entry, Annex E is too small to read, please paste a readable version ? we will review per the resubmission and provide subsequent comments if appropriate.

b) Forty motorbikes is a high number. Please provide explanation for why 40 motorbikes are needed.

Agency Response

UNDP, 6/6/2024:

a) The budget table has been resubmitted under Annex E

b) Motorbikes are key to the success of the project. Indeed, the 8 CRDEs are located in remote parts of the three islands, and are often difficult to access. To implement the planned activities, CRDEs' staff will constantly need to move around to meet with farmers and visit their plots, liaise with service providers and suppliers. Without this basic transportation tool, they will only remain stuck into CRDEs headquarters with no possibility to conduct meaningful work on the ground. Motorbikes are by far the most adapted means of transport in mountainous Comoros, where many of the roads are in a bad shape. The cost of motorbikes is very low compared to their expected benefits: at USD1000 per unit, the total cost is USD40,000 in total for the 5-year duration of the project (especially compared with the cost of 4*4 vehicles, at roughly USD50,000 each). With this budget, each of the 8 CRDEs will have 5 motorbikes for the use of its extension officers and technicians to work daily with

farmers on their territory, which will make a huge difference compared to the current situation, where CRDEs are very poorly equipped due to lack of government financing.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request1/16/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request6/7/2024:

Cleared.

5/29/24:

All GEFSEC comments prior to 5/29 cleared except for project budget table, which is not possible to read and needs to be re-uploaded to the Portal template (pending Policy review).

1/18/24:

Any GEF Sec comments provided at PIF stage that were not responded to, have been re-included in this CEO Endorsement stage review.

Agency Response

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request5/29/24:

Cleared.

1/16/24:

Information requested.

Please include the response to comments Germany provided at PIF approval stage.

Agency Response

UNDP, 17/05/2024:

The responses to comments from Germany have been added to **Annex B: Response to Project Review of the CEO Endorsement Request.**

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request1/3/24:

Yes.

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 Request1/16/24:

Yes.

Agency Response

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request1/16/24:

Yes.

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

n/a

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 Requestn/a

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 Requestn/a

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

6/7/2024:

Yes.

6/4/24:

Not yet. Please address the remaining review comments.

1/18/24:

Not yet. Please address the review comments.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	1/18/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	5/29/2024	
Additional Review (as necessary)	6/7/2024	

**Secretariat Comment at
CEO Endorsement**

**Response to
Secretariat comments**

Additional Review (as necessary)
Additional Review (as necessary)

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations