Evaluation of Natural Capital to Support Land Use Planning, Improved management effectiveness of Terrestrial Protected Areas, deployment of SLM practices and Creation of Eco-Villages in Central Madagascar

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10389

Project Type
FSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
CBIT **No**
NGI **No**

Project Title
Evaluation of Natural Capital to Support Land Use Planning, Improved management effectiveness of Terrestrial Protected Areas, deployment of SLM practices and Creation of Eco-Villages in Central Madagascar

Countries
Madagascar

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area
Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, Livelihoods, Community-based adaptation, Mainstreaming adaptation, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Coastal and Marine Protected Areas, Productive Landscapes, Financial and Accounting, Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting, Species, Invasive Alien Species, Threatened Species, Biomes, Tropical Dry Forests, Grasslands, Tropical Rain Forests, Land Degradation, Food Security, Sustainable Land Management, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Sustainable Agriculture, Income Generating Activities, Sustainable Fire Management, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Sustainable Forest, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Influencing models, Demonstrate innovative approache, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Stakeholders, Civil Society, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Type of Engagement, Consultation, Information Dissemination, Participation, Partnership, Local Communities, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, SMEs, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Capital providers, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Communications, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Education, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Access and control over natural resources, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Participation and leadership, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender-sensitive indicators, Women groups, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Learning, Indicators to measure change, Theory of change, Adaptive management, Innovation, Knowledge Exchange

Sector

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

5/4/2022

Expected Implementation Start

6/1/2022

Expected Completion Date

5/31/2027

Duration

60In Months

Agency Fee($)

537,075.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-3	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting	GET	2,000,000.00	7,291,000.00
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	GET	2,039,589.00	13,217,432.00
LD-1-4	Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape	GET	1,613,836.00	6,967,914.00
		Total Project Cost($)	**5,653,425.00**	**27,476,346.00**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

To promote the use of National Capital Accounting (NCA) as a tool for Land Use Planning to achieve Protected Area (PA) management effectiveness, deployment of good Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and operationalization of Ecovillages in Central Highlands of Madagascar.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
1. Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for Natural Capital Assessment (NCA)	Technical Assistance	1. Development of a strategic framework to mainstream NCA into policy, regulatory, and institutional arrangements, including supporting the creation of Ecovillages, as indicated by: Improved skill level of institutions responsible for natural capital valuation (measured by increased scores on the capacity development scorecard). Baseline: 47; Target: increase by 10 points from the baseline value. **Increased extent of natural capital assessment carried out**. *Baseline: 0 municipalities and district and integration plans competed and implemented; Target: >=9 municipalities have NCA document;* **Presence of**	**1.1.** Technical assistance, training and necessary tools on NCA and its application to policy provided to national and regional experts; **1.2.** Capacity of line ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Finance) strengthened for integration of NCA, biodiversity conservation in sectoral development strategies and policies including Land Use Plans (LUP) in the Central Highlands; **1.3.** Policy scenario analysis on natural capital assessment of Ecovillages and land-use planning in Central Highlands, based on biophysical	GET	765,000.00	3,947,536.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
2. Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) capacity building and tools in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands (Incl. INV & TA)	Investment	*2. Alternatives to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities? pilot tested,* as indicated by: **Increased number and area of participatory land use plans based on NCA results, integrating SLM and biodiversity outcomes developed, adopted and implemented**: *Baseline:0 plans, 0 ha; Target: >=10 plans, (9 municipalities, 1 district);* **Increased number and area of PA (COFAV) development/ co-management plans developed and adopted by ecovillages**: *Baseline: 0 plans, 0 ha;*	**2.1.** Integrated land use plans are developed using the NCA results from Component 1 and their implementation are piloted trough landscape approach and ecovillage model focusing on SLM and biodiversity conservation activities on at least 238,234 hectares in 2 regions of the Central Highlands; **2.2.** PA effectively managed through ecovillage model to conserve the habitat of Mantella cowani other threatened and endemic species in the Central Highlands; **2.3.** Support provided to ecovillages for community-centered conservation in the Central Highlands through the	GET	1,934,425.00	7,950,736.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
3. Pilot ecovillages to reduce rates of deforestation, protect habitat, improve landscape productivity (addressed by component 1) and enhanced livelihoods (Incl. INV & TA)	Investment	*3. Ecovillages lead to reduced rates of deforestation, conserve habitat, improve landscape productivity and enhance livelihoods,* as indicated by: **Increased number of ecovillages actively engaged in community based natural resources management.** *Baseline: 0 ha; Target: >=18;* **Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (and provision of ecosystem services) conservation through application of integrated land use plans**. *Baseline: 0 ha; Target: >= 238,895 ha* **Area of**	**3.1.** Criteria, technical guidelines, approaches and local processes for the creation of ecovillages are defined based on experiences elsewhere and internalized by key stakeholders in the two Central Highland Regions; **3.2.** At least 18 Ecovillages are created, and their governance structures developed in Central Highlands, taking into consideration the global experience on Ecovillages including from Senegal; the NCA reports, Land Use Plans, SLM and biodiversity conservation priorities actions; **3.3**. A network of 18 ecovillages in Central Highlands is used and	GET	2,260,500.00	9,930,940.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
4. Communication, Knowledge Management, gender mainstreaming and project monitoring and Evaluation	Technical Assistance	*4. Generated knowledge and communication products are available for dissemination at different levels and adaptive management ensured,* as indicated by: **Increased community awareness on conservation, SLM and threatened species conservation in the landscapes** as indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP): *Baseline:TBE on the Year 1; Target: >= 70% (of which at least 30% women) of sampled community members, government and sector agency staff, private sector and other stakeholders aware of potential conservation threats and adverse impacts of unsustainable forest and land developments and behavior;*	**4.1.** Communication and knowledge products are generated by the project and disseminated at local, national and regional levels to create awareness for NCA, Biodiversity conservation and SLM; **4.2.** Madagascar's key actors including those involved in environmental accountability and natural resources management are actively engaged; **4.3.** As a result of experience gained, regulatory frameworks including governance structures, sensitization and awareness-raising tools on ecovillages are developed and training modules developed and administered	GET	448,000.00	3,900,000.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**5,407,925.00**	**25,729,212.00**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	245,500.00	1,747,134.00
				Sub Total($)	**245,500.00**	**1,747,134.00**
				Total Project Cost($)	**5,653,425.00**	**27,476,346.00**

Please provide justification

N/A

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($)
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment & Sustainable Development (MEDD)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,500,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MAEF)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	8,127,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Madagascar National Parks (MNP)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	7,346,440.00
Civil Society Organization	GRETA - Professionals for Fair Development	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,352,000.00
Private Sector	Foundation for Biodiversity and Protected Areas of Madagascar (FAPBM)	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,841,429.00
Civil Society Organization	Association Nationale d?Actions Environnementales (ANAE)	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	126,000.00
Donor Agency	Conservation International	Grant	Investment mobilized	143,477.00
Civil Society Organization	Societe Naturalliah	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	40,000.00
			Total Co-Financing($)	**27,476,346.00**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The cofinancing secured represents US$17,139,440 of recurrent expenditures (62%) and US$10,336,906 of the investment mobilized (38%). Investment mobilized represents parallel investments and allocations from the entities indicated in the table above. 110% value of cofinance anticipated at the Concept (PIF) stage has been realized. MEDD: In-Kind contribution in terms of staff time, existing office space and vehicles in support of NCA work, land use planning, ecovillages and communication, KM and M&E and PMC support (PD and other staff salaries) MAEF: In-kind contribution in terms of staff time, existing office space and vehicles in support of the establishment of ecovillages, development of sustainable

agricultural and livestock practices, coordination of LUP work, training and extension support, etc. MNP: In-kind contribution in terms of staff time, existing office space and vehicles as part of its planned expenditure for the management of the highland protected areas of MNP parks, to promote the use of Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) as a tool for Land Use Planning to achieve Protected Area management effectiveness, deployment of good Sustainable Land Management practices and operationalization of Ecovillages in Central Highlands of Madagascar. GRETA: Grant in form of Investment mobilized from non-GEF sources to support piloting ecovillages programs, in particular SLM, agroecology, watershed management and hydropower development. The co-financing from GRETA is made through the Rhyvi?re 2 project that is financed by the EU, the FFEM and the private sector with the aim of producing renewable energy to reduce dependency on firewood and enhance opportunities for improving the productive potential of the rural communities. The project also entails efforts at the protection of watersheds and forests in the biodiversity-rich headwater regions, forest restoration, erosion control, etc. GRETA is expected to be directly involved with the GEF 7 project to facilitate the development of co-management plans and regulations for transfer to ecovillages, in particular to (i) oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the co-management arrangements for the ecovillages within the COFAV. (ii) mobilization and organization of communities, establishing ecovillage governance structures, negotiation of co-management between village and COFAV management authority, (iii) training communities in planning and implementation of co-management arrangements, and (iv) support in planning investments for COFAV ecovillages and providing technical support and training for implementation of ecovillage investments. FAPBM: Grant in form of Investment mobilized from non-GEF sources to support ecovillages for community-centered conservation in the Central Highlands ANAE: In-Kind contribution in terms of staff time, existing office space and vehicles in support of ecovillages to reduce rates of deforestation and improve landscape productivity and enhanced livelihoods and communication and knowledge management Conservation International: Grant in form of Investment mobilized from non-GEF sources to support local communities in the 2 regions to improve resiliency through sustainable agriculture including agroforestry. The co-funding offered by the CI was drawn from the project entitled ?sustainable landscape for the eastern regions of Madagascar?, financed by the GCF fund. The goal of the project is to improve the resilience of climate-vulnerable smallholder farming families, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation, and leverage private sector climate investments. The activities financed through the CI is the improvement of the resilience of agricultural families, through the popularization of sustainable agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture, agroforestry, the use of drip irrigation techniques, etc. Societe Naturalliah: In-kind contribution in terms of staff time, existing office space, and vehicles to support ecovillages in small-scale enterprise development centered around essential oils as well as agroforestry nursery development and awareness creation.

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($)
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,039,589	383,761	4,423,350.00
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	1,613,836	153,314	1,767,150.00
				Total Grant Resources($)	**5,653,425.00**	**537,075.00**	**6,190,500.00**

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 ($)

100,000

PPG Agency Fee ($)

9,500

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	70,000	6,650	**76,650.00**
UNEP	GET	Madagascar	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	30,000	2,850	**32,850.00**
				Total Project Costs($)	**100,000.00**	**9,500.00**	**109,500.00**

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
23,000.00	53,092.00	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	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)

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)
23,000.00	53,092.00	0.00	0.00

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)

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)
Akula National Park COFAV (Corridor Forestier Ambositra Vondrozo) PA	**125689** 555549464	**Select**	23,000.00	53,092.00					

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)
550000.00	357687.00	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)
250,000.00	238,234.00		

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

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)
300,000.00	119,453.00		

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

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

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

Title	Submitted

Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)	0	6298884	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)	0	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)		6,298,884		
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting		2042		
Duration of accounting		20		

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO?e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO?e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	75,000	60,000		
Male	75,000	60,000		
Total	150000	120000	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

The project will achieve these targets through the following key interventions: Core Indicator 1.2: Strengthening PA management effectiveness for COFAV (Corridor Forestier Ambositra Vondrozo) PAs by transferring approximately 53,096 hectares of COFAV located within 6 municipalities to local community co-management and regular trainings of PA staff on best management practices, in terms of social engagement, human relationships, mediation, communication management, awareness raising and conflict resolution, gender sensitization, monitoring, evaluation) (Output 2.2); Core Indicator 4.1: Area of landscape under improved management covering 238,234 hecatres through integration of NCA study recommendations for improving sustainable land manangement and biodiversity conservation in 9 municipal and one district level land use plans and policies and implementation of these plans (Output 2.1). This covers the following: ? 1 LUP at Ambositra District level (covering 23 municipalities, including municipalities within and outside the

project interventions) ? LUPs at 7 Municipal Levels in Amoron?I Mania Region ? LUPs at 2 Municipal Levels in Haute Matsiatra Region The total area covered by the above 3 activities is 357,687 ha, but to avoid double counting the area under Core Indicator 4.3 (Area under SLM of 119,353 hectares) was excluded to provide the 357,687 ha figure for Core Indicator 4.1. See Table below: A) Ambositra District (Amoron?I Mania Region) area covered by District level LUP (includes the 7 municipalities in this district targeted by project) (ha) = 319,990 B) Area of 2 municipalities in Ambohimahasoa (Haute Matsiatra Region) not covered by district LUP (ha) = 37,697 C) Total area covered by LUPs (district and municipality) (A+B) = 357,687 D) Area of SLM already counted under Core Indicator 4.3 = 119,453 E) Total Area attributed to CI 4.1 covered by LUP under project (excluding area covered under Core Indicator 4.3) (C-D) = 357,687 ? 119,453 = 238,234 Core Indicator 4.3: Area of landscape under improved sustainable land management in production landscapes in 119,453 hectares with GEF funds and non-GEF cofinancing. Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas mitigation from improved forest management (53,096 hectares), agroecological practices and reduction of fuelwood consumption based on the use of energy-efficient cooking stoves. Core Indicator 11: Direct involvement of local communities in the COFAV PA management and support of sustainable livelihood projects within 18 eco-villages and surrounding areas, that will benefit at least 60,000 women and 60,000 men in the project area (outputs 2.1-2.3 and 3.1-3.3).

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

describe any changes in alignment with the project design with the original pif

1a. *Project Description*.

The project was designed in full accordance with the PIF with some necessary adjustments to the project Components, Outcomes, Outputs, co-financing, and budget made during stakeholder consultations and project development (see Annex G for details). A brief description of the project is presented below.

1) <u>the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description)</u>:

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The project is aimed at strengthening national capacities to assess and integrate natural capital in the highlands of Central Madagascar, develop land use plans that will facilitate the creation of ecovillages and develop investment and development mechanisms to ensure the operationalization of ecovillages in the Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra regions of the Central Highlands of Madagascar. The intent is to use natural capital assessment as the basis for determining the appropriate investments at the community level to address the challenges and barriers to biodiversity loss, deforestation, and land degradation in the Central Highlands of Madagascar development (mainly through agroecology and sustainable land management).

Key barriers to address the development challenge above in Madagascar and the project area include: (1) lack of capacity to mainstream Natural Capital Assessment (NCA) into sector policies; (2) limited capacity and tools for community-based PA management, to enforce regulations and develop land-use plans for sustainable development; (3) lack of effective mechanisms for reducing ecological footprint of rural communities living in the Central Highlands; and (4) limited understanding of sustainable natural resources models and of biodiversity and ecosystem benefits, and poor communication of merits of good environmental stewardship (see further detail in Section II: *Background and Situation Analysis (Baseline Course of Action)* of the project document).

2) <u>the baseline scenario and any associated baseline initiatives</u>:

Since almost half of Madagascar?s assets lie in its natural capital that cover different economic sectors, which includes abundant crop and pasture land, water resources, mineral and non-mineral subsoil assets, as well as the renowned biodiversity and landscapes, addressing the challenges described in previous sections of this report are complex that would require a collaborative effort between a number of sectors (finance, planning, water resources, conservation, energy, tourism and others). The Government?s development agenda is articulated in the national development plan ?Emergence 2030 that aims at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through programs that include economic growth and build human, economic and environmental capital for sustainable development. It promotes seven priority economic sectors for Madagascar?s growth and development: food and agriculture,

sustainable use of rare agricultural and forestry products, fisheries and aquaculture, light industry, mining, precious stones and tourism. The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2025) recognizes the need to integrate conservation and sustainable use into the country?s socio-economic development (Objective 2) while realizing the challenge in incorporating these values in the national economy, planning an policy decision-making process and the environmental accounting system. Achieving these goals will require that Madagascar?s natural resources be developed with a good understanding of the complex relationship between nature, individual businesses, and the global economy, so as to provide invaluable insights on how to protect and enhance the health of the social and economic systems in the country. In this regard there are a number of international development organizations that are working with the Government of Madagascar to promote sustainable development by ensuring that the national accounts to measure and plan economic growth include the value of natural resources.

With support from the World Bank-facilitated Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (*WAVES*) partnership is helping to develop scientifically credible methods for ecosystem accounting that aims at promoting sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed in development planning and national economic accounts. The work so far has focused in a number of areas: (i) water accounts that entails using data to build the physical stock account to construct flow accounts; (ii) forest accounts to provide data on the changes in volume and surface areas of timber resources for protected and non-protected areas as well as forest type; (iii) mineral accounts to determine the physical stock of some mineral resources and methodological guidance to calculate the resource rent for these minerals; (iv) tourism accounts to generate information on the contribution of protected areas to national economic development; and (v) macroeconomic indicators to help better explain the integration of NCA in managing the country?s assets and the methodology for assessing these.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is helping Madagascar to map strategic growth opportunities. In order to identify bottlenecks to achieve this growth, it is assisting the country with the assessment of natural capital?s contribution to the development of the tourism sector as well as the needs of stakeholders and investments and later the development of a roadmap for investments in the tourism sector. Other work included the mapping of investment opportunities for ecosystem services, including carbon storage, fresh water for household use, agriculture and hydropower, non-timber forest products, coastal protection, commercial and artisanal fisheries and nature tourism with Conservation International and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The Makira REDD+ project is using carbon revenues to support conservation work in the 350,000 hectares Makira National Park with commensurate community-based activities, including a focus on ecotourism, production of sustainable and equitable cash crops and fish farming, the latter as an alternate source of protein for hunting bushmeat. Since capacity was a major constraint to NCA, the *WAVES* project helped build some capacity of local researchers to help try bridge the gap of having deep local knowledge and better data for NCA.

Despite the above efforts, applying NCA to assess the economic value of its biodiversity including its protected areas and realizing this potential to contribute to poverty reduction and economic development, particular in biodiversity-rich remote locations requires good governance, predictable, open and enlightened policy-making and engagement of civil society, including local communities. Taking into consideration the extensive network in the country that contains over 75 percent of the remaining native forests, the PA system is substantially underfunded and the effective capture and management of renewable and non-renewable revenues has not materialized. Effective capture of the economic value of PAs can provide vital and tangible ecosystem services to the largely and poor forest dependent communities in the two project regions and generate rural employment in the tourism industry and add value to existing forest-dependent livelihood activities for communities living in the vicinity of the protected areas. Given the lack of adequate funding for the PA network in the foreseeable future, using community co-management and livelihood improvement approach in terms of income generation, economic, health and other social activities in communities in the vicinity of protected area network can help achieve the conservation objectives of the protected area network. The effective credible and efficient governance and management of natural resources through the concept

of ?ecovillages? in the Central Highlands of Madagascar is recognized through the identified five Principles[1][1] of post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and taken into consideration the NCA and experiences from other past and ongoing initiatives including from Senegal. The application of the 5 principles to support community-centered conservation can help to build the capacity of the communities and the ecovillage structures to fully engage in biodiversity conservation and develop of stewardship of environment protection in the context of sustainability that is the backbone of the ecovillage concept.

While there are examples of functional ecovillages in Madagascar, extending the ecovillage concept to include management of protected areas is a challenge. The majority of protected areas in Madagascar are managed by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) with some delegated management responsibilities involving NGOs, local community associations and the private sector. Delegation of co-management to local communities is in most cases limited to communities having some monitoring role, without a direct decision-making and direct management authority. This seems somewhat contrary to the actual intent of the co-management approach to the twin objectives of conservation of biodiversity and some permissible sustainable use of natural resources contained within the protected areas. Sustainable uses such as regulated grazing, charcoal and fuelwood collection, harvest of wood and non-timber forest products can help generate interest and participation of local communities in conservation-driven sustainable use practices. However, shared governance regimes have not been fully developed and applied in the protected areas.

The project design is based on the lessons learned from the previous and current natural capital assessment and related ecovillage conservation projects implemented in Madagascar and other programs and projects implemented in the region. The relationship of NCA and ecovillages is premised on the project?s approach of integrating biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and environmental management practices within the concept of ecovillages that would provide a sustainable model of economic development that strives to respect ecosystems and preserve the environment and natural resources. Delivery of such benefits to biodiversity and community livelihoods require a good understanding of the economic values that are derived from these resources as well as the lost economic costs (and discounted benefits) associated with the degradation of these resources. The intent was to ensure that project strategies could capitalize on the different experiences. In terms of national capital assessment, the project development process was based on lessons learned in particular through the World Bank funded *WAVES* experiences that focused on national accounting related to water accounting, ecosystem services, protected areas, timber and indicators. Project learning of various models of *Waves* NCA work indicated the following:

? Natural capital accounting being a complex, multi-disciplinary subject, requires many agencies and professions to work together
? Production needs to move from one-off exercises to an on-going production cycle
? Extending a long-term vision of NCA beyond a project cycle to an national mandated exercise
? Data quality assessment is needed in advance to ensure that data is reliable
? Understanding of policy entry points to ensure that NCA work gets translated into policy
? Early and on-going process of engagement with analytical and policy decision-makers to ensure policy uptake
? Developing policy indicators from the NCAs to take into account changes in natural capital

In terms of the promotion of the ecovillage concept, extensive reviews were undertaken from national and regional case studies by the national consultant team, in particular to identify good practices for the creation of ecovillages, namely the process of transforming villages into environmentally sustainable ecovillages; the administrative and technical support required for this transformation; the processes for

establishing and promotion ecovillages; methods for financing and financial viability and governance and institutional structures and support, with the overall aim of promoting sustainable development solutions for green technologies, agroecology and renewable energy, the latter in particular to replace the current exploitation and degradation of forests to meet the fuelwood needs of local communities. From a social perspective, the review looked at the dynamics and intricacies of social relationships at the community level and how to transform these into a more cohesive and collective relationship that is built on trust, working together and achieving benefits for the community as a whole. The economic review sought to look at the means to promote collaborative financing, productivity, consumption and the circular economy and the concept of governance.

Based on the lessons above, the design of this project was developed in strong cooperation with national and local stakeholders who participated in the consultations, see Appendix 21. While, the experience in terms of ecovillages in Madagascar is limited, there are many other examples, including from the region, in particular from the terminal evaluation of the UNDP GEF ecovillage project in Senegal that provides an insight into key factors that can determine the success of this approach as follows:

? There should be political support for ecovillages and its replication with adequate policies and legal instruments that recognize the status of ecovillages, the latter in particular for co-management of PAs and benefit sharing
? The ecovillage approach must be participatory, inclusive, exhaustive and iterative that recognizes the needs and interests of the community
? Ecovillage approaches must build on a learning by doing approach
? Promotion of ecovillages would need a multidisciplinary approach that integrates all of the resources at the disposal of the village, promotes improved land, water and forest conservation activities that is intricately linked to finding alternatives to current unsustainable uses, so that benefits to communities are commensurate with their needs
? Ensuring that communication and training enables a good understanding of the link between community wellbeing and the conservation of natural resources
? The establishment of ecovillages requires the development of a structured approach that aims to optimize both the available resources and the absorption capacity of the actors.
? Establishing ecovillages requires an assessment of the situation and needs of the village concerned to configure the actions to be carried out in relation to the socio-ecological situation, the human and organizational potential, etc.
? Ensuring that Ecovillages are not just administrative or territorial entities, but functional groups of habitats and farms operating around sustainable agroecological practices with the support of local state services and other development actors
? This functional autonomy needs support from the public services that will serve as a support platform with the development actors
? Need for strengthening the capacities of rural producers so that they can economically benefit
? Ensure that women are well integrated and have an important role in decision-making
? The consideration of the gender dimension follows the different phases of ecovillage development, namely, identification, design, planning, implementation and monitoring-evaluation.
? The success of an ecovillage depends first and foremost on the support of its members for a change in behavior and production practices as a drastic change in behavior and production model is necessary to obtain the expected results. This change should mainly come from members of ecovillages but also from other actors involved in the process
? Actors need to be trained in the various techniques of sustainable management and production

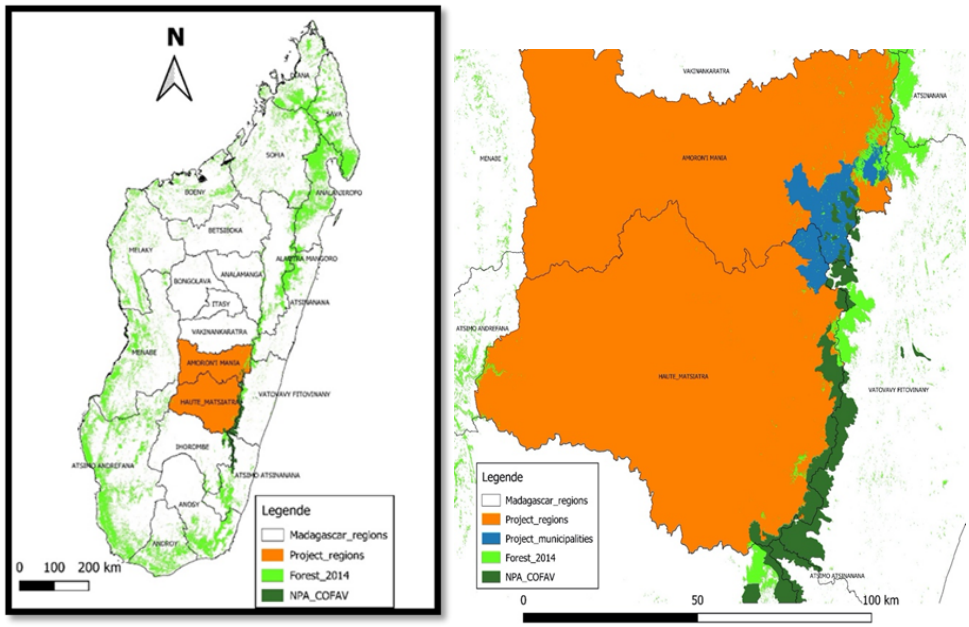
3) <u>the proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project</u>:

The Project Objective is *to promote the use of National Capital Accounting (NCA) as a tool for Land Use Planning to achieve Protected Area (PA) management effectiveness, deployment of good Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and operationalization of Ecovillages in Central Highlands of Madagascar*. The Objective will be achieved through implementation of three project strategies (components):

- ***Component 1:*** *Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for Natural Capital Assessment (NCA);*
- ***Component 2:*** *Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) capacity building and tools in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands;*
- ***Component 3:*** *Pilot ecovillages to reduce rates of deforestation, protect habitat, improve landscape productivity (addressed by component 1) and enhanced livelihoods;*
- ***Component 4:*** *Communication, Knowledge Management, gender mainstreaming and project monitoring and Evaluation.*

All four Components are designed as interconnected strategies to target key threats for sea turtles and seagrass, mangroves, coral reefs, and communities in the project areas. The suggested strategies have significant flexibility to deliver the project Outputs effectively including under conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The project sites are located in the Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatras regions in the eastern part of the country. The eastern part of the region to which the target municipalities of the project is characterized by the existence of the Fandriana Vondrozo forest corridor (COFAV) which has been identified as having exceptional biological interest and recognized as a priority in terms of preservation. The corridor is part of the dense humid forest of the east and the high-altitude forests of the highlands of Madagascar and consists of 3 different types of forest ecosystems that can be the subject of carbon sequestration zones, namely dense humid forests of low altitude less than 800m; dense humid forests of medium altitude between 800m and 1600m and an altitude plant formation (rupicolous vegetation) above 1600m.



Map 1: Location of Project Regions and Municipalities

Coordinates: Amoron?i Mania ? Latitude 20o 27? 32.86? and Longitude 46o 43? 35.011?

Haute Matsiatra ? Latitute 21o 28? 8.63? and Longitude 46o 27? 58.858?

COFAV is both a very important resource for the local population and the region, a refuge for the flora and fauna of the southeast, and an important genetic reservoir of the biodiversity of the Madagascan rainforest. The eight target communes of the districts of Ambositra and Ambohimahasoa are located on the edge of COFAV, which means that their populations are key players in the conservation of the biodiversity of the area. The floristic biodiversity form specifies the forests of the intervention area are of dense humid evergreen types, with a specific endemicity rate and rich in epiphytic species. Indeed, it presents more than six hundred species of Angiosperms and more than two hundred species of Pteridophytes. Thirty-six endemic micro-mammal species have been identified in the COFAV. The corridor is home to a rare species of aquatic micro-mammal, *Limnogale mergulus.* There are seventeen species of fish that have been identified, including six endemic to Madagascar, three endemic to the Vondrozo region. Regarding their conservation status; two species are critically endangered (*Bedotia sp Vevembe, Paratilapia sp Vondrozo*), one endangered species and two vulnerable species (*Agonostomus telfairi, Paretroplus polyactis*). In addition 4 species of Crustacea (crab and crayfish) and at least 55 species of Lepidoptera are recorded in this corridor. A total of 17 species / subspecies of lemurs were recorded during the inventories in the PN Ranomafana and in the corridor connecting this protected area to that of Andringitra and the Pic d'Ivohibe Special Reserve. Of these 17 species, 8 are nocturnal (*Microcebus rufus, Microcebus jollyae, Lepilemur microdon, Avahi peyrierasi, Avahi betsileo, Lepilemur betsileo, Cheirogaleus major* and *Daubentonia madagascariensis*) and 9 diurnal (*Varecia variegata, Propusviventerulemus edwards, E. cinereiceps, Hapalemur griseus ranomafanensis, Hggilberti, Prolemur simu*s and *Hapalemur aureus*). In addition, the COFAV is home to 111 amphibian species including one endangered species (*Mantella bernhardii*) and two vulnerable species (*Anodonthyla montana* and *Scaphiophryne marmorata*) according to the species status established by IUCN in 2008 and sixty-eight species of Reptiles including *Matoatoa spannringi.* Ninety-four bird species among which 65 are endemic to Madagascar, 22 regional endemic species have been identified in the COFAV (Cf. appendix 6 list of COFAV birds). Among them, 33 species are included in the IUCN red list in 2008, two species are seriously threatened (*Neodrepanis hypoxantha,*

Sarothrura watersi) and three are Vulnerable (*Mesitornis unicolor, Brachypteracias leptosomus, Atelornis crossleyi*). In addition to its biological value, the COFAV is an important water resource for the project area, constituted by rivers, lakes and swamps that provide critical water supply to the project intervention areas. These ecosystems provide economic and environmental/ecological services, mainly the regulation of the water cycle. These wetlands also contain species endemic to Madagascar and the region that are very threatened by abusive collections and by the transformation of these areas into rice fields. The project interventions in the target communes cover around 48,600 ha of the NAP COFAV.

The project is designed to achieve following **Outcomes**:

Outcome 1. Development of strategic framework to mainstream NCA into policy, regulatory, and institutional arrangements, including supporting the creation of Ecovillages;
Outcome 2: Alternatives to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities? pilot tested;
Outcome 3: Ecovillages lead to reduced rates of deforestation, conserve habitat, improve landscape productivity and enhance livelihoods;
Outcome 4: Generated knowledge and communication products are available for dissemination at different levels and adaptive management ensured.

The project Outcomes will be achieved through delivery of specific project **Outputs** (project?s products and services):

Outcome 1. Development of strategic framework to mainstream NCA into policy, regulatory, and institutional arrangements, including supporting the creation of Ecovillages

Output 1.1 Technical assistance, training and necessary tools on NCA and its application to policy provided to national and regional experts

MEDD will lead Output 1.1, liaising with Ministry of Economy and Industry and the members of the NCA Forum to build on existing and previous initiatives including the World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) program and the Road Map of 2016.

Training and technical assistance under output 1.1. will be aimed to further develop the technical capacity of existing experts on NCA to develop and apply NCA, based on international best-practice methodologies and tools. The focus of output 1.1. is on capacity development of experts, modellers, developers of accounts and those who conduct natural capital assessments. This will be complementary to the development of knowledge and understanding of the use of NCA in policy among line ministries, which is the focus of output 1.2. An indicative list of activities under this output are the following:

•In the first instance, an NCA capacity development needs assessment (?needs assessment?) will be produced in order to ascertain existing capacity and knowledge and identify more precisely gaps that component one should fill.

•Based on the capacity needs assessment develop and conduct a training program that covers the following topics

? Conceptual framework on SEEA Central Framework and SEEA Ecosystem Accounting as well as analytical approaches used in for data producers and users of accounts;

? Training and capacity building on SEEA-based account compilation, calculation of indicators, at national and sub-national levels, including:

o SEEA Central Framework 2012: asset and stock/flow accounting

o SEEA Ecosystem Accounting 2021: ecosystem accounting units; ecosystem service classification and links to ecosystem functions and conditions; measurement and modeling of ecosystem condition

and services; structure of ecosystem accounts and hands-on training on physical and monetary asset accounts

o Deployment of existing available and/or development, local adaptation of existing tools on ecosystem services modeling and mapping (including software use); biophysical modeling and GIS tools;

o Valuation of ecosystem services NCA for specific ecosystems or specific ecosystem services;

o Policy application of NCA data, including the use of NCA data in policy scenario analysis.

? The establishment of a monitoring and information management unit at the regional level (cartographic database, management of partners, coordination of the activities of the various partners, monitoring of management transfers and support to grassroots communities, etc.)

? This capacity development will proceed in parallel and be complemented by the development of pilot accounts required for the policy scenario analysis of Ecovillages in output 1.3. The training will cover a broader range of accounts and methods than is strictly required for assessment of the Ecovillages, thereby expanding the skill set and capacity to apply NCA to future policy considerations.

The training will be organised around the following elements:

o Supported completion of the suite of online SEEA EA modules (https://seea.un.org/content/seea-e-learning-resources) accompanied by a series of deepening virtual discussions and webinars, including modules on ecosystem extent; ecosystem condition; ecosystem services modelling in bio-physical and monetary terms; and using ecosystem accounts for policy scenario analysis.

o A week-long National NCA Training Workshop, combining both technical components (under output 1.1) and conceptual and policy components (under output 1.3)

o Dedicated virtual and in-person training on the ARIES for SEEA Explorer (https://seea.un.org/content/aries-for-seea) application that allows users to produce rapid, standardized, scalable and customizable ecosystem accounts for their area of interest that are consistent with the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework.

o Gender and Development (GAD) considerations will inform design and delivery of training programs, incorporating gender factors into capacity needs assessments, participant recruitment, and post-training surveys.

Lead Responsibility: MEDD

Support: UNEP Ecosystem Services Economics Unit (ESE) Unit, UNSD, Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3)

Output 1.2 Capacity of line ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Rural Development, and Ministry of Finance) strengthened for integration of NCA, biodiversity conservation in sectoral development strategies and policies including Land Use Plans (LUP) in the Central Highlands

Output 1.2 will focus on raising awareness of NCA concepts, principles and potential policy applications among line ministries.

A key component of output 1.2 will be development of a ?Road Map for Advancing NCA in Madagascar?. This roadmap will build upon previous existing strategic plans for NCA, including those developed as part of the previous WAVES project and ongoing initiatives as part of the Forum on NCA formed in March 2021 by MEDD. For Output 1.2, the indicative activities are the following:

? Incremental support to the development and implementation of a national NCA Roadmap, building on previous and ongoing initiatives. The Road Map will: (1) detail and reinforce NCA partnerships at national and provincial levels; (2) identify key NCA stakeholders and their roles,

differentiating between data suppliers and data users; (3) agree on methods, formats and data exchange protocols for data needed for NCA; (4) outline policies relevant for NCA uptake and mainstreaming; (5) identify regional, national and international policies that could benefit from the use of NCA data, including the use of indicators for SDGs and post-2020 biodiversity targets; (6) set out a medium-term plan for NCA account development, including prioritization of accounts linked to policy needs; and (7) enable policy applications of NCA, including but not limited to land use management, the future development of Ecovillages, biodiversity conservation and Protected Area management.

? Medium to long-term strategy for the mainstreaming of NCA in policy decision-making along with capacity development, institutional arrangements and accounts developed during this Project developed as complementaryt of part of the ?Road Map?

? Strengthening the NCA Forum established in March 2021.

? Ensuring that natural capital assessments and policy analysis serve as a demonstrated example of the policy application to NCA which line ministries can learn from to better integrate NCA into decision-making, in particular to ensure that Output 1.2 is linked with Output 1.3

Lead Responsibility: MEDD

Support: UNEP ESE Unit

Output 1.3. Policy scenario analysis on natural capital assessment of Ecovillages and land-use planning in Central Highlands, based on biophysical modelling and valuation of ecosystem services

Output 1.3 is focussed on the substantive development of natural capital accounts and their application to assessment of the impact of Ecovillages in the project site areas. Through assessment of the economic case for Ecovillages, based on the value of natural capital and ecosystem services under alternative scenarios, output 1.3 will inform development of land use plans in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands.

The accounts that will be considered as part of the Project are as follows:

? Ecosystem extent accounts based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework

? Ecosystem services accounts, physical and monetary for the following services, based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting framework

o Soil ecosystem services: soil quality regulation and soil erosion control

o Water ecosystem services; supply, quality and flow regulation

o Global climate regulation services: carbon sequestration, storage and retention

? Biodiversity assessment based on SEEA Ecosystem Accounting Framework, including ecosystem condition indicators

? Land Accounts based on the SEEA Central Framework

? Water Accounts based on the SEEA Central Framework

? Soil condition accounts as part of the SEEA Ecosystem Accounting, including ecosystem condition indicators

An indicative list of activities proposed under this Output includes the following:

? Development of NCA related to ecovillages based on up-to-date guidance on international best practice in the SEEA EA provided by UNEP?s Ecosystem Services Economics Unit in consultation with international experts. The training on ARIES for SEEA in output 1.1 will facilitate rapid development of selected ecosystem accounts based on best available global datasets and models sourced by artificial intelligence, which can be complemented with input from local datasets and model inputs. These accounts, and other available data on social and human capital and on ecosystem services, will serve as the basis for natural capital assessment of EcoVillages in the Central Highlands using policy scenario analysis methods. The process for scenario development will follow the approach of The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) Country Studies, drawing on extensive experience of such policy applications in TEEB partner countries (http://teebweb.org/our-work/country-studies/) and the application of SEEA Ecosystem accounts in policy scenario analysis as conducted as part of the Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) project (https://seea.un.org/ecosystem-accounting/policy-scenario-analysis). This approach to policy scenario analysis is designed to identify the ecosystem services that are vital to meeting a country?s policy priorities and make recommendations on how these services can be integrated into policies. It can help countries answer these questions: What is the natural capital in the region and what is driving change? How do we measure and understand our natural capital? To what extent are the values of nature integrated into decision-making? What are the issues that need policy attention? What are the policy tools and decision options that offer solutions?

? Dialogue with key stakeholders to define and refine the precise scope of policy scenario analysis.

? The organisation of work would involve: (a) engagement of a local research institute or university to conduct the analysis; (b) substantial technical assistance from the ESE unit to ensure the quality of the analysis and the relevance of the results; and (c) an international expert to support the modelling of the ecosystem services

? Ensuring that the natural capital assessment using policy scenario analysis feeds directly into Component 2 of this Project: Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) and tools in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands. First, the results from the analysis will demonstrate the economic costs and benefits, and associated trade-offs in terms of natural, social and human capital of the Ecovillage policy interventions in the target regions. Second, the results will be applicable to inform the design or land use planning policies in the municipalities and districts in the project areas as well as other regions, through demonstration of the value of natural capital and the impact of policies designed to preserve it. The results will provide recommendations for which approaches to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation work best in which locations and under which circumstances, thereby helping to inform land use planning in the country more broadly.

? Preparing communication assets of the findings (under Component 4), and linking to training of senior line ministry officials (output 1.3), the study can provide powerful demonstration effects of the potential application of NCA in policymaking, thereby contributing to its mainstreaming and uptake. The outcome of this activity would be the promotion of capacity building programs to strengthen understanding of the link between natural capital assessment and creation of ecovillages.

? Assessment of appropriate regulatory frameworks for creation of ecovillages at municipal level for further development under Component 3.

The policy scenario analysis will involve:

a) Collection of spatially explicit data based on the SEEA EA framework that serve as the input data for the development of ecosystem services assessment and the scenario-based assessment for central highlands

b) Review of the types, causes, location and extent of threats to ecosystem services in the study area, and role of Ecovillages in addressing these. Based on this, define clear policy question(s) and scenarios for analysis. Scenarios must include plausible and realistic alternative management and policy options vis a vis business as usual
c) A scenario-based assessment to demonstrate the implications of various policy choices related to Ecovillages for the supply and value of ecosystem services in the study area
d) Preparation of a report documenting the data sources, methodology, data quality, compilation process, findings, including policy implications and recommendations; Discuss in this report the implications of the scenarios and provide relevant policy recommendations, and avenues for mainstreaming results into policy decisions.

This natural capital assessment using policy scenario analysis feeds directly into Component 2 of this Project: Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) and tools in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands. First, the results from the analysis will demonstrate the economic costs and benefits, and associated trade-offs in terms of natural, social and human capital of the Ecovillage policy interventions in the target regions. Second, the results will be applicable to inform the design or land use planning policies in other regions, through demonstration of the value of natural capital and the impact of policies designed to preserve it. The results will provide recommendations for which approaches to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation work best in which locations and under which circumstances, thereby helping to inform land use planning in the municipalies and districts in the project area, other regions and the country more broadly. Finally, by preparing communication assets of the findings (under Component 4), and linking to training of senior line ministry officials (output 1.3), the study can provide powerful demonstration effects of the potential application of NCA in policymaking, thereby contributing to its mainstreaming and uptake. The outcome of this activity would be the promotion of capacity building programs to strengthen understanding of the link between natural capital assessment and creation of ecovillages. As an important measure, appropriate regulatory frameworks for creation of ecovillages at municipal level would be assessed for further development under Component 3.

Lead Responsibility: MEDD

Support: UNEP ESE Unit

Outcome 2: Alternatives to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities? pilot tested

Output 2.1 Integrated land use plans are developed using the NCA results from Component 1 and their implementation are piloted through landscape approach and ecovillage model focusing on SLM and biodiversity conservation activities on at least 283,284 hectares in 2 regions of the Central Highlands

Under this Output, the project will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity, ecosystems services and sustainable land and water management in the participative Land Use Schemes (SACs) at the municipality level. These land use plans will be developed based on the NCA that was undertaken in Component 1 that will inform alternative practices to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities in the municipalities.

Developing land-use plans in component 2 will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity, ecosystems services and sustainable land and water management in the participative Land Use Schemes (SACs) at the municipality and district level. These land use plans will be developed based on the NCA that will be undertaken in Component 1 to inform alternative practices to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities. While, the NCA work will demonstrate the economic costs and benefits, and associated

trade-offs in terms of natural, social and human capital of the Ecovillage policy interventions, it will also importantly inform the design or land use planning policies in the 9 project municipalities and a single district, namely Ambositra in the Amoron?I Mania region, the latter is particularly important as 7 of the 9 project municipalities are located in this district. The LUP work at the district level is particularly relevant as it will enable the demonstration of the value of natural capital and the impact of policies designed to preserve it, so that approaches to sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation can be applied to inform land use planning and policy at the district, region and in the country more broadly. It will also enable the validation of the selected ecovillages in places in component 3 that hold great potential to contribute to socio-economic development and the biodiversity conservation. In addition, land use plans would identify areas and specific investments for biodiversity conservation in COFAV, areas of intensive agriculture and livestock management, sustainable harvest of natural resources, areas for protection and restoration and social and environmental safeguards are not breached in the establishment of ecovillages. Land use planning will involve multiple stakeholders and interest groups, including community representatives, traditional authorities, CSOs, and government representatives. The consideration of land restoration potential as criteria for ecovillage will also be guided by the consideration of landscape approach (GEF 7 LD 1-4 objective). As the Central Highlands is mountainous area, integrated watershed management, including wetlands, will be identified for strategic SLM interventions to improve hydrological functions and services for agro-ecosystem productivity particularly for paddy rice production. This integrated land use planning approach will influence multi-stakeholder landscape planning involving both public and private sectors to inform decision-making within the ecovillages in terms of management of production and protection structures to enhance ecosystem services. The landscape approach will also be an opportunity of improving agricultural land management near protected areas, including through empowerment of local communities particularly women. To achieve this outcome, the following are the proposed indicative activities.

- Based on the findings of the NCA carried out under Component 1, a multidisciplinary analysis would be undertaken in the nine municipalities to (i) identify the current forest, land and water use regimes, state of biodiversity and the socio-economic, to enable decisions regarding land use plans. The analysis will land use imagery, transects surveys and other features, as necessary to determine how to reduce degradation and fragmentation of habitats, land degradation and destruction and erosion control and climate change; (ii) key benefits (timber, NTFP and ecotourism) and ecosystem services provided by the COFAV and watersheds to translate to more sustainable land uses and natural resources management approaches. The study will be contracted out to a qualified institution to provide provide recommendations and guidelines for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in land use planning in the 9 municipalities and in a single district;
- Development of land use plans, in particular in relation to the nine municipalities to define the following: (i) validation of priority ecovillages; (ii) identification of specific locations and investments for forest conservation, SLM, watershed protection, grazing management, non-timber forest product (NTFP) collection and harvest, zoning of the COFAV for various activities related to conservation, protection, threat management, surveillance and SMART patrols, etc. In terms of the Ambositra district LUP exercise, this will help define, more broadly policies, incentives and regulatory mechanisms that can promote integration of sustainable resource use practices and biodiversity conservation at a large spatial aggregate initially, that can later be translated for application at a regional level.
- Capacity needs assessment and development of capacity building program to strengthen the ability of relevant sector agencies at local and regional level to incorporate natural capital and forest and land dependent community needs into land use planning and management to enable sustainable development.
- Undertaking training of relevant persons based on the capacity needs assessment for key sector entities involved in land use planning decision-making and development of guidelines and procedures (training kits) for integration of conservation and sustainable resource uses. The training program will focus on: (i) impact of unsustainable practices on forests and biodiversity; (ii) defining trade-off between conservation and sustainable economic practices; (iii) application and guidelines and procedures for trade-offs in land use planning; (iv) role of community and stakeholders in land use planning; etc.

•Identifying a local institution that can serve as a training institution for promotion of integrated landscape level planning and training of personal within the institution, development of curriculum and training modules and imparting such training to regions outside the project target regions; and
•Implementation of land use plans, and in particular SLM and biodiversity conservation activities in around 119,453 hectares with GEF and non-GEF co-financing that will be undertaken through Outputs 2.2 and 3.3.

Output 2.2. PA effectively managed through ecovillage model to conserve habitat of *Mantella cowani* other threatened and endemic species in the Central Highlands

This Output will strengthen PA management effectiveness, in particular in COFAV to ensure sustainable conservation of key species, including *Mantella cowani* and its habitats, as well as other threatened and endemic species. This will be done by transferring approximately 48,106 hectares of COFAV located within 6 municipalities to local community co-management. The hydrographic network of the project are is very dense and several rivers have their source in the COFAV, where poverty reduction and economic growth should be closely tied or linked with the actions by ecovillages to conserve the PA. In this regard, this Output needs to address specific issues constraining the conservation of COFAV, namely, insufficient funding, land tenure insecurity in and around the PA, ineffectiveness of the governance and management system, anthropogenic pressures, and demographic pressure and migration.

Improving the protection of COFAV through the project will help protect endemic species, including *Mantella cowanii*, particularly in the Antoetra region, which is part of the project intervention municipalities. However, degradation of their habitat threatens their survival. The project will strengthen awareness and actions for the protection of this species through the following indicative activities:

•Consultation meetings with local ecovillages to promote and get acceptance to the concept of co-management of the COFAV so as to strengthen community participation in management of external pressures from overexploitation, land clearing, wildfires, etc.
•Conduct multistakeholder site level dependency assessments for parcels of COFAV to be transferred to individual ecovillages to ascertain current dependencies on PAs for community resource use, fuelwood and charcoal requirements and hunting. A good understanding of such dependencies is critical to develop alternative practices of resource use, as well as any current positive impacts on the COFAV.
•Through this consultation process, with facilitation support from ANAE and GRET develop individual co-management plans for the relevant part of COFAV transferred to ecovillage, identifying roles and responsibilities of ecovillage committees, individual community members, PA management authorities, NGO support, etc. The management plans for each ecovillage will be developed with the overall framework and objectives of the existing CI management plan for the entire COFAV). The preparation of the individual co-management plans will be organized and facilitated through a series of workshops, that will include participation of the mayors, President and members of ecovillages, regional sector agencies, CBOs, NGOs, etc. The co-management plans will include specific details of zoning of COFAV, permitted and non-permitted activities, protection measures (SMART patrols, ecological restoration, species monitoring, sustainable harvest regimes for NTFP, measures to manage and enforce rules, monitoring protocols, social fencing, etc.), etc.
•Assessment of any potential restriction on access to forest and natural resource products on account of improved management of the PA, develop a baseline to identify, plan and monitor social impacts over time, especially for vulnerable people and develop alternative plans (livelihood and resource use) to replace loss of access.
•Analysis of the training needs of villagers and stakeholders in the (i) effective co-management aspects of the PA, including ecological and species monitoring, improving management effectiveness, reporting, surveillance techniques, enforcement of PA rules and policies, maintenance of trails and

other infrastructure, ensuring inclusiveness of community, etc. and (ii) concepts of conservation and sustainable forest resource use, sustainable harvest techniques, ecotourism, etc.

- Training PA staff on best management practices, in terms of social engagement, human relationships, mediation, communication management, awareness raising and conflict resolution, gender sensitization, monitoring, evaluation, etc.
- Formation of community SMART patrol teams, developing procedures and time table for regular patrolling, sensitizing patrol teams to protocols for patrolling and monitoring, reporting and enforcement, gender sensitization, human rights aspects, etc.
- Strengthen measures for improving communication between all stakeholders (among community members, with PA authorities, other stakeholders, etc.)
- Improving the economic well-being of the community through alternative and sustainable economic development activities and reduce dependency on PA resources (NTFP, ecotourism, alternate livelihoods, sustainable agriculture and livestock practices, etc.). These activities are covered under Output 3.3
- Identifying options for financial sustainability of the PA co-management approach, including the conservation aspects will be based on the following three principles: (i) increasing the yield of the communities' farms by virtue of the optimization of their practices and the maintenance of the ecological functions of natural resources; (ii) use of certain "new" options such as carbon credit, ecotourism, solidarity investment and placement systems; and (iii) establishment of a microfinance system. The project will support a consultancy study to define the above, and various other potential mechanisms of sustainable financing for ecovillages, within the legal framework that exists in the country.

Output 2.3 Support provided to ecovillages for community-centered conservation in the Central Highlands through the identified 5 Principles of post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework and taken into consideration the NCA and experiences from other past and ongoing initiatives from Senegal

The application of the 5 principles[1] to support community-centred conservation will help to build the capacity of the communities and the Ecovillage structures to fully engage in biodiversity conservation and develop of stewardship of environment protection in the context of sustainability which will be the backbone of the Ecovillage.

While Output 2.2 supports co-management of PA (COFAV), effective conservation on surrounding lands and waters is necessary to curb accelerating biodiversity loss as traditional PAs, by themselves are no longer adequate to support the conservation of the full range of species and habitats. It therefore becomes necessary to transform conservation to broader area-based efforts that integrate PAs and its surrounding human-induced natural landscapes. In this regard addressing biodiversity within the entire landscape is a transformative change is what this Output seeks. To accomplish this, this Output will include the following indicative activities:

- Undertake a mapping exercise to ascertain specific actions that are needed in community lands adjacent to the COFAV to identify specific species, habitats and locations that is needed to enhance the protection and viability of conservation efforts that contribute to the maintenance of the integrity of the PA and its biological components;
- Based on the above, through a consultative and participatory process reach agreement on specific practices that are needed to maintain the ecological viability of the ecovillage landscape (e.g. prevention or reduction of the rate of introduction of invasive alien species, reduction of nutrient loss to the environment, reduction of chemical applications, etc.) as well as identification of other harmful practices for biodiversity;
- Based on the above, develop a checklist of key targets to be achieved through the ecovillage program, including in particular, (i) ensure no additional habitat loss; (ii) ensure that a minimum agreed area under agriculture is sustainably managed to maximize ecosystem services and increased resilience to climate change through agroecology approaches; (iii) post-harvest losses are reduced; (iv) all harvest of

forest and other natural products are done sustainably; (v) reduce of waste generated and/or recycling; etc.

•Seek opportunities for engagement of NGOs, women?s groups (to influence gender rules and relationships on the use, management and conservation of biodiversity), youth and business and finance groups (to encourage enterprises to align their businesses and procurement with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, support supply chain activities, etc.) to increase or provide additional technical and financial resources to support this transformative change.
•Develop a set of practical and easy to measure indicators for monitoring ecosystem condition, community structure/composition (species aggregates and population trends), biotic integrity, ecosystem benefit indicators, etc.

Outcome 3: Ecovillages lead to reduced rates of deforestation, conserve habitat, improve landscape productivity and enhance livelihoods

Output 3.1: Criteria, technical guidelines, approaches and local processes for the creation of ecovillages are defined based on experiences elsewhere and internalized by key stakeholders in the two Central Highland Regions

As discussed in previous sections of this report, a total of 18 villages in 9 municipalities in the Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra regions have already been selected for transformation into ?ecovillages? based on two criteria, namely (i) villages located near the COFAV Protected Area to reduce illegal exploitation of forest and protect biodiversity and (ii) existence of a watershed to be sustainably managed where SLM interventions can generate multiple benefits (sustainable food production, increase fertility, reduced run-off etc.). Activities under this Output will focus on supporting the transformation of existing villages into ?ecovillages? with the aim of optimizing the available resources and absorption capacity of the actors, in particular the communities. Transformation to ?ecovillages? requires a step-by-step structured approach taking into account the socio-ecological situation and the human and organizational capacity and potentials (including governance, autonomy, legal and institutional framework) and creating an inclusive decision-making, shared vision and collective ecologically responsible behavior and actions for promotion of a sustainable development agenda. The suggested steps for creation of ecovillages supported by the project are the following:

•Validation of 18 the villages to be transformed to ecovillages according to selection criteria meeting the objectives of the project, identify large hamlets or groups of hamlets with 50 to 200 households. This activity is carried out by the project team.
•Once the ecovillages have been validated, the project will support the undertaking of a situation analysis at the village level through a transparent consultative process with local communities and regional stakeholders in order to configure the relationships of the socio-ecological, the human and organizational situation at the village level and potential for transforming the selected villages to ?ecovillages?. This exercise will also inform and initiate the villages to the proposed objectives and activities of ecovillages and get consent to their participation based on their needs and priorities, ensuring the communities have total buy-in and willingness to participate. The situation analysis will define: (i) delineate the boundaries of the villages (administrative boundaries); (ii) describe the interaction between the people and the natural resources; (iii) identify threats, pressures, driver?s and responses; (iv) choose the issues for intervention that are considered priority by the community; (v) reach a decision on a clear participatory vision to address the major threats and opportunities for the community; (vi) identify broad strategies for achieving the vision created above (these strategies will be translated to actions under Outputs 3.2 and 3.3); and (vii) procedures for planning and management of ecovillage activities.
•Based on the above assessment, reach agreement with the villages to establish the basic principles for formation of ecovillages, outlining the clear rules and responsibilities for operation of ecovillages, including defining responsibilities of the different players (communities, regional administration and sector entities and others). The intent of this step is to develop a platform for integration of village-level

objectives, procedures for assessing trade-offs between conservation, resource use and socio-economic development and grievance redressal mechanisms.

- The project will provide facilitation support to establish the broad-based adoption of a shared vision based on principles discussed and agreed above, detailing timelines and procedures for the ecovillage engagement in project related planning, investment and monitoring. Facilitation support from ANAE and GRET would be necessary to mobilize the community for ecovillage approach.
- The project will provide legal support to assess legal and technical aspects related to defining the best possible approach to establishment of legal status for ecovillages. Giving legal status to ecovillages is an option to protect the assets of ecovillages. The question arises of knowing how to ensure consistency between efforts in the establishment of ecovillages in order to protect natural resources, territorial planning and municipal development plans. Ecovillages will collaborate with certain legally defined structures such as VOIs within the framework of the management of certain natural resources; the roles and responsibilities of each of the actors will have to be specified in order to avoid possible confusion sources of conflicts or inefficiency. Giving legal status to ecovillages will allow them to participate in the process of establishing or updating Communal Development Plans to allow the protection of ecovillages to be integrated into the SACs. This study will also integrate the possibilities of adapting the provisions of the Law on Regional Planning (LOAT) and in particular article 49 for the establishment of the principles of occupation and use of land and agricultural land and areas.
- The Project Team, with support from DREDD will initiate the process of establishing the legal process of restoring control of resources to the ecovillages based on locally available legal or administrative arrangements so as to ensure that ecovillages have autonomy for decision-making on resource use.

Key partners for output delivery: DREDD**,** DRAE, DREAH, DRATSF and DREH, GREAT and ANAE

Output 3.2 At least 18 Ecovillages are created, and their governance structures developed in Central Highlands, taken into consideration the global experience on Ecovillages including from Senegal; the NCA reports, Land Use Plans, SLM and biodiversity conservation priorities actions

Based on the results of Output 3.1, this output will support the creation and implementation of ecovillages that will largely be autonomous and self-sustaining and involve community-based natural resource management for conservation. Ecovillages will likely not be administrative or territorial entities, but functional groups of habitats and farms operating around sustainable agroecological practices with the support of local state services and other development actors. In this practice, they will operate in functional autonomy with the support of "Ecovillage Leaders", people who have benefited from specific training relating to the practice of ecovillages. This functional autonomy will be supported by the public services, which will be a support platform with the development actors, if necessary. In their operation, ecovillages will evolve and collaborate with VOIs or managers of Protected Areas. In addition, the practice of sustainable and ecological agriculture within the framework of an ecovillage would require that the ecovillage benefit from a synergy of public action in order to perpetuate its achievements and strengthen the results obtained. Specific consideration would be given to the territories of ecovillages in order to promote their actions and allow them to benefit from the advantages of rational territorial planning. The following are indicate steps to deliver on this output:

The governance structures for promotion of the ecovillage approach will draw from global experiences and will include a three-tiered coordination structure at the regional, municipal and village levels with the intent of supporting villages to draw on expertise, technical support and resources from a range of regional sectoral institutions that operate at the regional and municipal level. This is described in detail in Section 4 of this report.

The following are indicative steps to deliver on this output:

- A study is proposed under the project to assess specific means, processes and participatory arrangements to ensure the integration of ecovillage planning within the context of municipal land use planning and regional development. This would likely not entail the creation of a particular status for ecovillages within the regional context, but of finding ways and means to enable the ecovillages to be integrated into municipal planning and development. This would also require the establishment of standardized information collection from ecovillages so that this information can be easily integrated into the existing information management systems used for land use planning at municipal level.
- Establishment of regional, municipal and fokontany governance structures (refer Section 4). A regional text will be drawn up to formalize the creation of local structures linked to the governance of ecovillages: ecovillage steering committee (region), ecovillage committee (municipality) and village committee (fokontany). The DREDD is responsible for the development of this text, in collaboration with the region. The responsibilities for each of these institutional structures will be clearly defined and provide a hierarchical decision-support structure that will support planning and management at the village and ecovillage levels.
- Undertake a capacity needs assessment to design specific training programs to support behavior and attitudinal changes necessary to transform villages to ecovillages, including training of regional agencies to enable interaction for supporting the ecovillage approach. Following, the project will support training workshops for local communities and regional entities to enhance their capacity to support the ecovillage approach in particular the organization and management aspects of it. The intent of this capacity needs assessment is to enable a shift away from conventional training approaches towards learning by doing; improving local community organizational skills for planning, management and monitoring ecovillage actions; and strengthening capacity of local and regional institutions to enable devolution of authority to local communities and be accountable to meet community demands and aspirations.
- Based on a consultative process define socio-economic data of each of the ecovillages (number of inhabitants, type of activity, type of agriculture, type of 'breeding, water management, gender, etc.) to enable decisions on appropriate interventions. The study will also propose an operation plan and a sustainability system for ecovillages. Under the supervision of the project team, this study will be entrusted to a consultant.
- Carry out awareness and stakeholder consultation by the local DREDD team to ensure that local communities are aware of: (i) their rights to access and roles in the sustainable use of resources; (ii) their responsibilities for conservating and sustainably using these resources; (iii) the linkages between conservation and sustainable development and their economic welfare; etc.
- Training of support services: a partnership platform will be set up to ensure support and accomplish development activities for ecovillages. The DREDD will ensure the creation and animation of this platform that will include all relevant stakeholders (government, non-government, private and community)
- Selection and training of ecovillage leaders (LEV): the villagers themselves appoint young people (men and women) to be ecovillage leaders. Capacity building is offered to ecovillage leaders (on SLM techniques, water management, agroecology, waste recovery, etc.). The project team provides training for LEVs (ANAE, GRET and DREDD) that in return offer training to villagers, for a concrete application of good ecological practices (SLM, SFM, agroecology, water and soil management, soil fertility improvements, etc.) in the field.

The Creation of a Regional Steering Committee at each of the two regions of Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra with the intent of facilitating engagement, transparency and coordination among key regional decision-makers, sectoral entities and stakeholders towards strengthening capacities and institutional arrangements for support of the ecovillages program. This will ensure that sectors beyond the perceived traditional ambit of the biodiversity conservation agenda (namely sectors dealing with water, agriculture, livestock, planning, land development and energy) are meaningfully involved in supporting local communities to achieve their sustainable development agendas. It will lead advocacy efforts and provide science-based policy advice for biodiversity integration in sector and local-level planning and define roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in management of the conservation estate as well as promote sustainable productive activities within the villages.

Output 3.3. A network of 18 ecovillages in Central Highlands is used and monitored as local investment model for reducing deforestation, conservation *Mantella cowani* habitat, improving landscape productivity and sustaining livelihoods

Following the creation of a network of 18 ecovillages in the project regions, the project will support a number of activities aimed at improving the sustainability of the ecovillages and as a consequence reduce deforestation, land degradation and unsustainable practices that result in loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services and land productivity. The activities to be developed within the ecovillage framework are likely to be the following that would be further assessed and validated during project implementation. These activities could include the following:

? Forest restoration and management
? Natural resource management
? Protection of watersheds and sources of water
? Sustainable land management (to fight against erosion and loss of fertility)
? Improvement of agricultural output (agricultural techniques, tools, small infrastructures, seeds, etc.)
? Water management (for irrigation and food production)
? Energy management (cooking and lighting)
? Capacity Building
? Awareness and communication

A menu of options related to the above themes that were identified as priority based on field discussion and recommendations from the validation workshop is provided in Table 10. While, these activities, including the training will be financed by GEF directly covering around 13,977 hectares (plus co-management of 53,092 hectares of COFAV), an additional area of 105,497 hectares of SLM related activities is expected to be supported through national and district government programs and community participation following the capacity building, land use planning at municipal and district levels and other technical support provided through the project, including oversigfht and suppooirt from the field coordinators and respective regional agencies.
Specific activities related to the above themes are discussed in more detail in the table below:

Menu of Potential Management Options at Ecovillages (with GEF and non-GEF resources):

Investment Theme	Potential Activities
Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Agriculture	? Support for SLM practices such as fertility management, soil and water conservation, etc. ? Crop diversification and crop productivity improvements ? Climate smart agriculture ? Nursery development ? Integration of crop-livestock ? Conservation of agro-biodiversity
Watershed management	? Community agreement/MOUs to protect wtare sources in ??COFAV and forests ? Support for infilteration channels, living hedges, hedging of plots, and other water conservation measures ? Agro-forestry; ? Control of weeds; and ? Installation of windbreaks.

Energy management	? Facilitate access to domestic energy through the dissemination of improved stoves compatible not only with fuelwood but also with charcoal, energy efficient and adapted to the needs of rural communities. ? Promote use of agricultural waste ? Promote agro-forestry
Livelihood Improvements	? Support for alternate livelihood activities ? Handicarfts ? Ecotourism development ? Beekeeping ? Poultry ? Cash crops and market gardens ? Value addition ? Nursery development for medicinal plants ? Essential oil production and marketing
COFAV Protected Area	? SMART community patrols to protect and conserve integrity of PA ? Improving community knowledge on biodiversity (including Mantella cowanii) ? Community involvement in participatory monitoring of COFAV ? Community forest protection against fires, over-exploitation and clearing through co-management approaches through MOUs ? Restoration of critical fragmented patches through protection, supported assisted natural regeneration ? Alternative economic activities to reduce pressure for shifting cultivation, over-harvest of forest products ? Improved livelihood practices ? Livestock grazing management ? Strengthened communication and collaboration between communities and PA authorities ? SLM and agroecological practices outside COFAV to improve community incomes and reduce pressure on PA resources ? Promotion of energy efficient cooking stoves to reduce demand on firewood ? Promotion of ecotourism

•In order to enable the community members to implement the above programs, the project will provide a range of capacity building training. In this context, at the start of the project, an assessment of the capacities of the community would be undertaken so as to tailor the training to specific requirements for implementation of the ecovillage activities. Capacity building will be planned to progressively build capacity through progression from basic to medium and higher levels. Training will cover topics related to PA management, SLM, water and energy management it links with measures for environmental protection, agricultural production, food value chain, nutrition, watershed management and erosion control.

Demonstration sites will be identified at the landscape scale to enable promotion and learning that will constitute the training pillars for communities, communities, associations and producer groups on principles of natural resource management and sustainable land management. Communities, living outside of the project target municipalities will also be exposed and trained at the demonstration sites so that they can learn of possible technical improvements that can be promoted on their own lands and their operations. Understanding the different phenomena related to ecosystem services, sustainable land management, water management and energy will be essential to enable broader acceptance of new and innovative techniques that can bring about global community change. In defining the investment in ecovillages build on the assessments and recommendation emanating from Output 2.3 to ensure conformity with the 5 principles of post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework. The training methodology is to promote exchanges, encourage farmers to ask questions and involve the audience to find the right answers together. The training sessions are also open to regional technical services

(environment, agriculture, livestock, water, etc.), to other development actors operating in the intervention area. The following are likely areas for training:

? Soils and organic matter improvement techniques
? Role of forests and natural resources and measures for natural resources protection
? Sustainable land management techniques and watershed development measures
? Techniques for managing agricultural productivity
? Water management techniques
? Crop cultivation techniques
? Agriculture-livestock integration
? Integrated crop protection and management
? Techniques for storage of agricultural products
? Simplified accounting of agricultural holdings

•To facilitate the continued technical support and extension to the farmers, the **Local village trainers** (FLV) selected from the village will continue to support the village committee in the implementation of activities after having been trained in the different themes: SLM, agroecology, composting, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated crop protection, integrated water resources management, production and planting of fruit plants, fuelwood and timber, the production and restoration of indigenous plants, the dissemination of practices aimed at energy efficiency, source protection, ecological monitoring, agricultural integration animal husbandry, cash crop production, rural accounting and marketing. This strategy makes it possible to promote and strengthen local skills, minimize conflicts of interest and make project actions sustainable. The FLVs will train and guide villagers to implement these programs. Specific investments will be focused on women and youth, including rural-based small scale enterprise development, poultry and small livestock rearing, vegetable gardening, establishment of plant nurseries, crafts and artisan practices. Technical and extension support will facilitate identification and promotion of specific livelihood and income generation activities for women and youth.

•Development of a participatory monitoring and evaluation framework for ecovillages by MEDD. This framework will include indicators to monitor environmental, social and institutional aspects. Environmental monitoring will focus on status of forest cover, biodiversity (including key species), health of natural habitats and ecosystems, erosion control and run off, etc., social monitoring will include inclusiveness, gender aspects, social well-being (access to social services, health services, mediation and grievance redressal, etc.), economic (equitable benefit sharing, change in dependency patterns, improved agricultural and livestock productivity, etc.) and institutional (governance, capacity, participation, change in attitudes to conservation, etc.). In selection of indicators, these should be measurable, clear, sensitive to change and reliable. Participants would be selected to undertake the monitoring, trained in monitoring survey methodology, interpretation of monitoring data and means of using the data for informed decision-making and adaptation for change.

•Development of the ecovillages networking system, by the project team. This will facilitate the sharing of lessons and best practices, promote study visits and learning.

•Identifying options for financial sustainability of the ecovillage approach, including the conservation aspects will be based on the following three principles: (i) increasing the yield of the communities' farms by virtue of the optimization of their practices and the maintenance of the ecological functions of natural resources; (ii) use of certain "new" options such as carbon credit, ecotourism, solidarity investment and placement systems; and (iii) establishment of a microfinance system. The project will support a consultancy study to define the above, and various other potential mechanisms of sustainable financing for ecovillages, within the legal framework that exists in the country. This activity will be done in collaboration with activity 2.2. to ensure complementarity and synergies.

Outcome 4: Generated knowledge and communication products are available for dissemination at different levels and adaptive management ensured

Output 4.1. Communication and knowledge products are generated by the project and disseminated at local, national and regional levels to create awareness for NCA, Biodiversity conservation and SLM

The project will design a communication and awareness program and implement targeted outreach campaign at the national and the project area level based on the NCA and ecovillage experiences in Madagascar and in other African countries. The campaign regarding NCA would be to provide a cohesive narrative to the needs of policy makers, and to the public discourse on the economy, in particular the missed opportunities to harness information on natural capital to make informed decisions on its wise and sustainable use. In terms of reaching the general public and local communities, the communication is intended to provide a message on harmful and devastating impact of unsustainable and destructive practices in relation to forests, agricultural lands, watersheds and water communicated through social media, local newspapers, TV, and radio. It will also facilitate knowledge exchange through field visits and awareness trainings, identify and document promising and good practice and promote establishment of model demonstrations by involving local communities, protected areas and local governments. The intent of the gender analysis and mainstreaming action plan is to enhance the role of women in conservation-based actions, that provides a voice for women in the local decision-making process related to conservation, sustainable resource management, livelihood and other local level activities. The effectiveness of the campaign will be monitored through Output 4.4 and it will contribute to the project Knowledge Management and lessons learning. The following are indicative activities under this Output:

- Development of knowledge management and communication action plans so that (i) the project is well understood, accepted, and implemented effectively and equitably; (ii) information and knowledge about natural capital and sustainable economic development is made available for decision making and improved collaboration; (iii) training programs are oriented towards application of knowledge to sustainable PA and forest conservation, watershed protection, sustainable agriculture and grazing practices and local livelihoods; (iv) knowledge and lessons learned from the implementation of this project are captured, documented and used to improve current and future project practices; (v) implementation and upscaling of best practices is improved; and (v) the public has an increased awareness and understanding of biodiversity conservation and threats, and (vi) knowledge management products are shared and used
- Implementation of a gender analysis and mainstreaming action plan so that: (i) a gender and socially inclusive perspective is applied to every set of activities; (ii) research on gender and social roles in ecovillages informs resulting plans and ensures equitable distribution of benefits; and (iii) information is collected and shared across gender and social divides. Training of staff on application of gender mainstreaming in project communication and project activities;
- Design of communication materials and programs (local language, best practices, teaching materials for schools, etc.), including documentary films;
- Conduct of awareness and outreach activities for a variety of stakeholders at the national, regional and local levels such as competitions, website, mass media, video and film, festivals, etc. This will include a number of activities, such as (i) Stakeholders Knowledge Exchange Events hosted by MEDD; (ii) Six month or annual project information bulletin; (iii) Exchange visits for local communities, NPA and LE agencies to demonstrate the best practices; (iv) Publications in mass media, conservation, and scientific journals; (v) Exchange visits for the ecovillage team from Madagascar to the ecovillage in Senegal, etc.
- A MEDD resource manual on planning and management of ecovillages. This document that will be produced at the end of the project and distributed to NGOs, United Nations agencies, local authorities, institutions in French and Malagasy to strengthen local stakeholders? uptake of knowledge.
- End of project seminar to promote best practices, learning and replication.

Output 4.2. Madagascar key actors including those involved in environment accountability and natural resources management are actively engaged

To achieve diverse policy goals, collaboration is always key and it is a well-known fact that data for NCA should come from a wide variety of sectors and their agencies and institutionalizing and expanding NCA to meet the country?s needs for decision-making. Building support and acceptance of natural resource accounting and management requires strengthening existing support programs (e.g.

WAVES) that has built significant capacity in the country, as well as coordination between government agencies. The intent is to: ensure stakeholders on both the data supply side and the policy demand site appreciate the value of NCA and value collaboration; improving networking and access to data; establishing collaborative mechanisms to facilitate NCA work in the country, combining data and policy expertise; a national steering committee to provide oversight and coordinate NCA work; identifying key staff from various relevant agencies that are involved in NCA work; developing capacity and training for NCA methodologies; promote international peer engagement and review; collaborate with regional and international entities to build experiences and sharing of best practices; keep decision-makers aware of NCA work to enable their access to data, keep abreast of development in this field and be able to take timely and advanced actions towards policy development; etc. An indicative list of activities under this Output could include:

- Developing the coordination and technical roles of MEDD would be central to convening stakeholder engagement in NCA work related to environment accounting and natural resources management, including establishment of working links between statistical entities that hold onto administrative data that could be useful for environmental accounts
- Setting priorities, building on the experiences from WAVES and other NCA activities in the country to ensure that new accounts are; (a) based on policy priorities and major risks to their achievement, (b) practicable-matching agency capacity and operationalized quickly and at low cost, and (c) sustainable-contributing to building an ongoing NCA system. Consolidating results from all NCA initiatives in the country so as to align, consolidate and then coordinate the NCAs being developed under various projects to form a coherent whole.
- Make clear the roles of other organizations and improving their collaboration in producing, interpreting, communicating and using NCA. Their capacities for upfront identification of priority policy questions and for interpreting the accounts will be especially important. In addition to individual organizations? roles, a systematic multi-disciplinary approach is needed. This national platform can help bring a wide range of experts (economists, natural and social scientists) together to enable networking in the country, capacity development and exchange within the region and globally, linking with countries going through similar exercises.
- Developing tools to enable policy analysis and modeling using the accounts. While general awareness of NCA has improved, better tools and capacities are needed to make use of the powerful potentials of NCA. The strength of NCA is that it conforms to economic accounts and so can easily be integrated into economic models to support forward-looking analysis and develop environmental-economic indicators. The collaboration can help generate better data and filling data gaps and help refine accounting methodologies
- Communicating the accounts and related macroeconomic indicators and making them accessible. It is important to let stakeholders know that the accounts exist and are available for use. Communication should target both those who need to make key natural capital decisions and those who wish to influence such decisions, or to hold decision-makers accountable. Doing this will help to drive demand for the accounts and their use and, in turn, drive continuous improvement of the accounts. Effective user access to the accounts could be provided through a more interactive interface than is afforded by the current static paper documents. As NCA develops, it will be important to disseminate the accounts regularly ?alongside the main national accounts ?with articles and blogs that draw out the links and issues.

Output 4.3. As result of experience gained, regulatory framework including governance structures, sensitization and awareness raising tools on ecovillages are developed and training modules developed and administered on Ecovillages concept, approaches and potential for generating multiple environmental benefits

While technical assistance enables change towards mainstreaming biodiversity and SLM, more sustainable agricultural and forestry practices, the project will dedicate time and resources to strengthen CSOs on services delivery to local communities. CSO strengthening will provide continuity well beyond the lifetime of the project and allow CSOs to grow their impact within their field of expertise. Modules developed by the project will be handed over to CSOs to widen the reach of these activities, as well as shared within fora and among policy makers for a potential replication. The same approach

to CSO will be used for private sector but tailored to their needs, objectives and support to local community livelihood.

Under this Output the project will undertake the following indicative activities:

•A project website will be created under the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development communications tools, which will serve as a repository of project documents in which evidence, reports and communication materials will be stored. These will include project thematic studies and assessments (e.g. NCA Valuation Report; Ecovillage Experiences Assessment; etc.). shared publicly on a dedicated website.
•Selection of CSO operational in the Central Highlands and tailoring of specific training of trainers programs to improve their capacity for promotion of ecovillages to enable uptake and continuity beyond the project period
•Development of training modules for use by CSO in promoting the scaling up of ecovillage models within the Central Highlands and elsewhere in the country, later on
•A forum to engage the private sector, along with sensitization materials and events to promote private sector engagement in business enterprises and value chains opportunities in ecovillages;

Output 4.4. Project implementation is adequately monitored, and relevant evaluations are conducted.

An effective M&E system and regular assessment of M&E data will allow the project: (i) to identify the most effective project strategies; (ii) to check project assumptions (hypotheses) and risks; (iii) to prepare management response to changing political, economic, and ecological environment; (iv) to learn from successful and unsuccessful project experience; (v) to incorporate learning in the project planning and adaptive management; and (vi) share experience among GEF and other projects in Africa and the world. Lessons learned through the project cycle will be reflected in the Annual Project Reports to ensure that the project uses the most effective strategies to deliver project Outputs and achieve project Outcomes in the changing environment. The indicative activities for this output are the following:

? Validation of the monitoring framework for the project, including methods and responsibilities for monitoring, data standardization and reporting, accuracy and reliability, etc.
? Undertake monitoring and compliance in relation to safeguard, gender, stakeholder engagement and Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM)
? Regular update of safeguard, gender and stakeholder engagement plans and approaches
? Prepare regular progress reports for sharing among partners, GEF and government and non-government entities
? Conduct mid-term evaluation, make adjustment and adapt as required to ensure achievement of project outcomes
? Conduct terminal evaluation and disseminate findings.

1) **<u>alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies</u>:**

The project aligns to GEF-7 biodiversity programming directions, specifically **BD-1-3** to ?Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting.? Located with the project sites are important biodiversity attributes, significant components of which lie in the Fandriana Vondrozo forest corridor (COFAV), with has exceptional biological interest and recognized as a priority in terms of preservation. The corridor is also a very important resource for the local population and the region providing critical water resources for economic benefit and other environmental and ecological benefits. In keeping with the GEF 7

programming directions, the project target ecovillage sites were prioritized based on the existence of important natural forests and biodiversity, substantial availability of water resources, soil that can support improved agricultural productivity and the potential for carbon sequestration. The ecovillage sites thus represent potential for reconciling development and conservation, through enhancement of natural resources, such as water for irrigation (water resources), development of agriculture (soil/land resources) and tourism and recreational activities (biodiversity and landscapes), thus creating sources of income to reduce pressures and dependence on natural resources. This helps to establish a link between the assessment of natural capital and ecovillage so as to promote interventions that will embrace a landscape approach to integrate elements that will promote the socio-economic wellbeing of the population while promoting biodiversity conservation and protection of productive landscapes, as well as promoting eco-friendly production systems. The project will facilitate the process of mainstreaming biodiversity in sectors that significantly impact biodiversity, such as agriculture, forestry, grazing and tourism sectors to change current practices that are degrading biodiversity. The mainstreaming of biodiversity will be strategically nested within regional, district, municipal and ecovillage level land use planning processes that will culminate following the Natural Resources Assessment and Accounting exercise undertaken in Component 1. The NCA exercise will result in the mainstreaming of biodiversity and other related natural resources management actions through the LUPs undertaken in Component 2 and the subsequent mainstreaming through on-the-ground investments at the eco-village and municipal levels to be implemented in Component 3. Overall, it is expected that the NCA, LUP and subsequent investments in SLM, forest conservation and restoration, agricultural diversification, grazing management and improved and diversified livelihoods will change current unsustainable practices that degrade biodiversity to more environmentally friendly production systems. Overall, the expectation is that the project will provide adequate incentives for biodiversity-friendly land and resource uses that will also preserve biodiversity.

GEF Biodiversity Focal Area **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. The project intends to bring a new approach to community natural resources management engagement through the ecovillages, in that it will promote the participation and capacity building of local communities, especially women, in the design, implementation, and management of protected areas (parts of the COFAV) as a model of Community Conserved Areas. The government has already transferred 48,106 ha of COFAV forests for management by local communities (in this case the ecovillages) through co-management arrangements with government entities, such as protected area administration. Through this co-management arrangement, the expectation is to reduce dependency on natural resources by promoting of improved agriculture and livestock practices, reforestation for fuelwood and promotion of tourism; develop activities for the protection of water sources and watersheds and improve downstream flows. Additionally, beyond the COFAV, the forests that are present within and around the ecovillages play an important role in sustaining biodiversity and consequently in providing a range of environmental services and contribute to economic sustainability at the ecovillage level. The investment in SFM (along with SLM, agricultural diversification and livelihood improvements) will support the protection of high conservation value forests in the ecovillage landscape at the ecosystem scale, in particular through addressing the drivers of forest and biodiversity loss, namely forest clearance and encroachment, forest burning and extension of shifting cultivation into the HCVFs and over-exploitation of forest products and fuelwood. The promotion of alternatives to these destruction practices (as envisaged in Component 2 will help conserve the HCVFs and the ecosystem services that they provide.

The Project is also aligned with the GEF 7 Landscape Degradation Focal Areas **LD-1-4**: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses and increase resilience in the wider landscape. The project will assist the Government of Madagascar (GOM) to manage Natural Capital Assessment and Accounting to deliver on improving policies for biodiversity management in productive landscapes and for sustainable agriculture, as well as integrating biodiversity into land-use planning. In particular, the ecovillages will support sustainable land management to counter degradation with the intent of increasing yields in order to move towards sustainable production through agroecology, organic matter management, crop succession, popularization of green manure use techniques, improved fallow, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, soil management and water conservation.

In terms of achieving LDN neutrality, the project will support the following measures:

? Support NCA exercise that also looks at land degradation, soil aspects and forest values to enable its integration into Land use planning at the ecovillage and municipal levels land planning
? Support sustainable agriculture and land management practices
? Support restoration of degraded forests within COFAV and watersheds
? Reinforce intersectoral innovation capacities through improved coordination for sustainable land management; and
? Mobilize incentives to community support in relation to biodiversity and climate change.

2) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing:

The project is built on a relatively strong financial foundation: total co-financing for the project is US$ 27,476,346 with a GEF contribution of US$ 5,653,425 or 20.5% of the total project budget. Details of the project co-financing are described in subsection 7.2 of the project document. The project has a significant level of investments at the national level (under Component1: US$3,947,536) to provide a strong policy, institutional, and monitoring foundation for the implementation of Components 2 and 3. At the same time Components, 2 and 3 fully focus on the area of 414,120 ha: an overall investment level of $2,400/km?. These sufficient levels of investment will allow achieving real and lasting change in the target PA management and livelihood of local communities.

The incremental value of this GEF project is explained in the table below.

GEF incremental contribution as per component of the project

Baseline Situation	Incremental Value	Key Outcomes and GEBs related to project
Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for Natural Capital Assessment (NCA).		

Despite political commitment and efforts to integrate NCA into economic and social development planning and the effort to broaden the capacity of the NCA service in the country and the designation of champions within relevant ministries in the country, this has not translated into an effective accounting program. National Capital Account production has been slower that anticipated and hindered by the low demand for policy relevant information. While the knowledge and skills of people producing accounts in Madagascar has increased within the government, there are challenges with obtaining basic and reliable data for decision-making. As a consequence, the capacity to integrate natural capital into national accounting systems remains limited, along with the lack of a clear vision, continued leadership and commitment and support to accounts managers along with substantial and improved environmental information. Hence the value of natural capital accounting has not be fully capitalized on, in making informed decisions on the use of natural resources for economic and local development	The GEF increment will provide training, tools and consultancy services to remove current limitation on NCA to enable informed decision-making and policy formulation in relation to protecting and enhancing the natural resources in the country for the social and economic well-being of its citizens. It would on the long-term enable policy makers and economists to integrate natural capital into national accounting systems	The likely outcomes/GEBs from the NCA work are the following: -NCA, nationally recognized as an important tool for biodiversity and ecosystems conservation in government policy decision-making and public as well as private investment and budget allocations. -Demonstrate a concrete application in Ecovillage sites for improving biodiversity conservation and protected area management. -Feeds directly into enabling policy (Land Use Plans) in support of management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands -Provides recommendations for best sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation approaches -Provides a powerful demonstration effect of potential application in policymaking, thereby contributing to its mainstreaming and uptake.

Component 2: Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) capacity building and tools in support of the management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands		
There is limited capacity and funding for PAs and public policy and planning have largely favored farming activities in forests or rainforest lands and policy instruments such as soft credits, land access, farming incentives, and technology transfer that have encouraged industrial development have not included environmental goods and production of services. This is further compounded by the fact that socio-economic development plans do not fully integrate or account for the biological values resulting in the unsustainable and widespread use of natural resources and exploitation of forests. There are also limited resources for PA management and capacity in integrating community perspectives and needs into protected area management.	The GEF increment is expected to integrate NCA work (under component 1) to inform decisions regarding land use planning that factor in the economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the economic losses incurred by the rash disregard for them. Additionally, increased communication in participatory governance, incorporation of local knowledge, increased accountability of decision-making and equal application of governing rules will ensure effective co-management. Community participation in PA governance through co-management will be directly linked to improved livelihoods that are locally relevant, include income-generating activities, enhance local capital and development of local capacity through training and skills development.	The likely outcomes/GEBs from this component would be the following: - Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and sustainable land and water use mainstreamed in participatory land-use planning schemes and policy at municipal and district levels covering at least 238,234 hectares of landscapes and under implementation -Nine municipal land use plans and one district land use plan integrate results of SLM and biodiversity values from NCA -Around 53,092 ha of COFAV under improved management effectiveness through 4 co-management plans --*Mantella cowani* and other threatened species populations stable or increasing
Component 3: Pilot ecovillages to reduce rates of deforestation, protect habitat, improve landscape productivity (addressed by component 1) and enhanced livelihoods.		

Local communities residing in the project area greatly rely on forests, agriculture and livestock to meet their daily needs. To survive they are involved in unsustainable practices such as clearing of forests for shifting cultivation, removal of forest wood, fuelwood and minor forests products. Poor agricultural and grazing practices are degrading the productive land resources and erosion and loss of forest cover are causing loss of water retention and ecosystem services. Even so, these mainly destructive activities are often inefficient to provide even basic food security and minimal income. Under this scenario, the forest and land and water ecosystems in the project areas will continue to deteriorate making target communities more insecure, more vulnerable to climate change, and poorer. Poverty and food insecurity in the project area may be exacerbated by the economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic	The GEF increment will allow bringing innovative ecovillage village sustainable models in the project area that has proven to be successful in other parts of Madagascar and other African countries. The community-based and sustainable ecovillage model will provide an environmentally and economically sustainable model of development that will help conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services while delivering an economic model that will provide food security and incomes to uplift the standards of living of local communities.	The GEF increment will lead to the following: - 120,000 beneficiaries benefiting from SLM, SFM, sustainable resource uses, and livelihood development -Eighteen ecovillages were created with governance structures and actively engaged in adopting sustainable ecovillage management plans -- At least 119,453 hectares of production landscapes under sustainable land management practices in the 9 pilot municipalities with GEF and co-financing -At least 50% of households in ecovillages use improved cookstoves (i.e. around 20,000 improved stoves distributed and used) and 15,000 people (i.e. 2,150 households) have access to renewable energy sources (hydro, solar) 100 charcoal makers trained in improved techniques of carbonization -The direct post project C benefit of 6,298,884 tCO_2eq for 20-yr estimate

Component 4: Communication, Knowledge Management, gender mainstreaming and project monitoring and Evaluation		
Although good examples of sustainable ecovillage models exist and there is an increasing appreciation for it, Regional and local agencies have limited experience and capacity for promotion of the ecovillage model, in particular in relation to the link between natural capital (water resources, land, forests and biodiversity) and sustainable economic development practices. There is limited training and networking to share ideas and resources to ensure the replication of successful ecovillage models across the Central highlands. Communities feel alienated from protected areas, and as a consequence have little or no interest in the long-term potential and values for people as repositories of biodiversity, natural resources, and watershed values and as buffers against the effects of climate change that can benefit them.	The GEF increment will improve knowledge and information among key sector agencies regarding NCA as well as enable farmers and other stakeholders to understand the relationship between economic values of natural capital and threats that are posed by the unsustainable use of these resources. It will support strengthening policies and programs that support natural resources accounting and community-based conservation and sustainable use; ensuring gender considerations are mainstreamed into natural resources planning and management; and monitoring and evaluating project investments to ensure that these are meeting project outcomes and contribute to Madagascar?s conservation and on-going development agendas.	The GEF increment will lead to the following: - Change in level of awareness on conservation, SLM and threatened species conservation in the landscapes bringing a change in behavior - Increased support and financing for scaling up/replication techniques by communities. -Improved availability and knowledge of best practices in resource management enhances political and local support

3) <u>global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)</u>:

The following Global Environmental Benefits will be delivered by the project:
? **Nine municipal and one district land use plans** covering total area of **238,234 ha** integrate results of SLM and biodiversity values from NCA;
? **53,092 ha of COFAV** under improved management effectiveness through the implementation of 4 co-management plans;
? **119,453 hectares of production landscapes** under sustainable land management practices in the 9 pilot municipalities with GEF and co-financing
? The **direct post-project C benefit** of 6,298,884 tCO2eq for a 20-year estimate
? At least **20% average increase** in income for **70% of participating households** based on action plans for sustainable NTFP harvest, livelihoods and improved business models agreed and under implementation initiated (at least 30% of beneficiary households are women-headed);
? Stable population of *Mantella cowani* in the project area;
? ~120,000 of direct project beneficiaries in the project area (50% are women).

4) <u>innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up</u>:

Innovativeness. The project is innovative as it aims to operationalize the concept of natural capital and ecosystem-based community approaches at the landscape level, and promote integration of values of services/benefits obtained from multiple ecosystem services into decision-making and operations of key economic sectors (including agriculture, water resources, energy resources, etc.). Moreover, it is anticipated that over the project?s duration, awareness-raising activities will contribute to increased awareness and investments by key economic sectors on the sustainable management of natural capital at the landscape level, leading to heightened consumer consciousness and willingness to pay for sustainably produced food, as well as for sustainable livelihoods and small-scale enterprise products. It is innovative since it would use the results of the NCA to inform decisions regarding land use planning that factor in the economic values of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the economic losses incurred by rash disregard for them. Additionally, increased communication in participatory governance, incorporation of local knowledge, increased accountability of decision-making and equal application of governing rules will ensure effective co-management. The project will make inputs to the creation and operationalization of pilot Ecovillages, which is a new concept in Madagascar that requires capacity building to understand and implement, improved land-use planning to design and manage, and investments to ensure sustainable and functional Ecovillages. The promotion of Ecovillages to generate global environmental benefits and improve community livelihoods presents an innovative mechanism in Madagascar to reduce habitat loss, improve biodiversity conservation, enhance sustainable forest management and ensure sustainable land management. It also provides a novel approach to co-management of PAs (COFAV) with the intent of involving communities in decision-making on best options for protecting and safeguarding biological resources contained therein. The co-stewardship of environmental goods by affected stakeholders, which is a core concept of Ecovillages, is an innovative approach in the Central Highlands and will provide an innovative, co-management decision-making platform for community members. Developing alternative, biodiversity-friendly, income-generating activities, whilst not innovative senso stricto, is an innovative approach in this project as communities will identify non-traditional means of income-generation and explore new markets and products.

Sustainability. *Environmental sustainability* issues related to the Ecovillage model and the implementation of the Ecovillage Strategy are addressed directly by a number of project activities, in particular: (i) ecovillage management plans that will provide a strategy and the action plan of the ecovillage to protect its environment, including global environment impacts; (ii) local agreements with village communities that are negotiated, with management rules for the ecovillage and PAs adjacent to ecovillages; and (iii) a participatory monitoring framework that will monitor trends in important biodiversity and natural resource use. The project will test sustainable agricultural, grazing and land management practices, as well as livelihood and small-scale enterprise development in each ecovillage in order to reduce human pressure on the COFAV, forests, and watershed areas so as to protect biodiversity and essential ecosystem services. Sustainable agricultural intensification and integration will also contribute to better management of available land. Suitable energy efficient and renewable energy options will be tested, along with tree plantation and agroforestry to reduce the impacts on forests. In terms of Financial sustainability, the intent of the project is to demonstrate that the ecovillage model can produce tangible benefits for communities while maintaining the flow of environmental services from the ecosystems on which they depend. The results and impacts on local communities of sustainable economic activities carried out on their productive lands, including the PA and watersheds will provide the incentives to create new businesses and enterprises, increase demand for public and private services training, extension and technical support and promote the establishment of innovative agricultural practices. Additionally, the project will seek to promote new financial instruments such as carbon credit, ecotourism, solidarity investment and placement systems and the establishment of microfinance systems. These financial opportunities can strengthen local financial institutions including micro-lending and credit institutions and provide investment security and financial services needed for sustained investments to the ecovillages. The energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies can potentially help to seek carbon credit opportunities to generate substantial economic resources for ecovillages at a national or regional scale later on, since the pilots may be too small to directly benefit from carbon credits. Socio-cultural sustainability will be enhanced by the creation and strengthening of collective community programs (e.g. ecovillage and PA co-

management) to provide the community a larger voice and platform for social change, enhance their roles and influence in local level planning and financial transfers and policy matters. The engagement of local level trainers from within the community in the implementation of ecovillage activities will strengthen their role as guardians and stewards of the ecovillage environment. The preparation of the co-management development plans for the COFAV and ecovillage management (and municipal land use plans) through a participatory, inclusive and transparent and its later implementation through the participation of all community members will strengthen ownership. The design of sustainable resource use and livelihood activities will be designed in consultation with local communities based on their needs and priorities, rather than be imposed from outside, thus creating an environment that would be conducive to the local social and cultural context of the communities involved. The project will invest in training and capacity building in order to implement participatory sustainable resource management and conservation management arrangements involving all stakeholders. The effects of such training and capacity building will be felt across the communities involved, as well as those outside the pilot ecovillages so as to extend the benefits more widely across the Central Highlands, thus helping in uptake. Support for participatory processes, improved self-governance and more efficient planning and decision making and gender sensitiveness can encourage a more profound impact across a wider region, beyond the project areas. Institutional sustainability will be promoted by enhancing the capacity of MEDD, other key government agencies (particularly agencies related to water, agriculture, livestock, planning and economy) to integrate NCA in future policy, planning and programs in the country. The process of creation of ecovillages will further facilitate the decentralization of decision-making to the regional, local and community levels in the quest for achieving global benefits..

Potential for scaling up: The project aims to strengthen Madagascar?s public and private administration systems in order to incorporate biodiversity and natural capital valuation into their respective decision-making structures and reporting systems. The support from GEF would allow Madagascar to directly access global-level expertise and experience to implement the UN SEEA 12 framework and adapt to the local context. GEF financing will function as a catalyst to drive political commitment to driving change among existing public sector agencies, both in term of enforcement of existing legal and regulatory provisions and in developing innovative financial instruments to incentivize biodiversity conservation. From a global perspective, the project will enhance Madagascar?s capability to implement the national biodiversity strategy and action plan. MEDD will have an enhanced capacity to influence policy and planning processes in the longer term. Under the project, opportunities for exchange of knowledge and experience with other government agencies as well as with international experts, project partners and other stakeholders will yield significant benefits in broadening interest and upscaling successful initiatives that conserve and sustain biodiversity within biological landscapes. To maximize project impact and the potential for scaling up, dissemination and wider replication of best practices can help to unlock the potential of opportunities, private sector partnerships and political support that will be further evaluated and promoted during the project implementation period.

[[1] Annex H. Why local communities must be at the heart of conserving biodiversity?

http://parquesnacionalesdelparaguay.blogspot.com/2020/04/why-local-communities-must-be-at-heart.html

[2] Build trust-based networks of people to collaborate for conservation, promote equity and gender equality, support reconciliation and redress, adopt a rights-based approach and respect and revitalize local rules for decision-making

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

The map 2 below shows the location of the 9 municipalities, 18 fokotany/ecovillages and the sub-villages within the ecovillages (also refer Annex H)

Map 2 (below). Location of the project municipalities in the project area[1]. Showing the nine project municipalities (Ambohimitombo includes two municipalities that are combined in the above map, namely Ambohimitombo I and Ambohimitombo II municipalities). The indicative coordinates are as follows:

Name of Municipality	Latitute	Longitude
Ambohimitombo 1	20?43'03.32"	47?25'45.98"
Ambohimitombo 11	20?39'10.23"	47?24'59.16"
Antoetra	20?51'02.07"	47?21'22.90"
Ivato	20?38'09.72"	47?12'02.78"
Ivony Miaramiasa	20?34'31.90"	47?10'56.43"
Kianjandrakefina	20?36'46.83"	47?21'19.56"
Vohidahy	20?31'48.81"	47?33'09.20"
Ambatosoa	20?57'57.50"	47?16'42.28"
Fiadanana	20?50'41.43"	47?17'16.63"

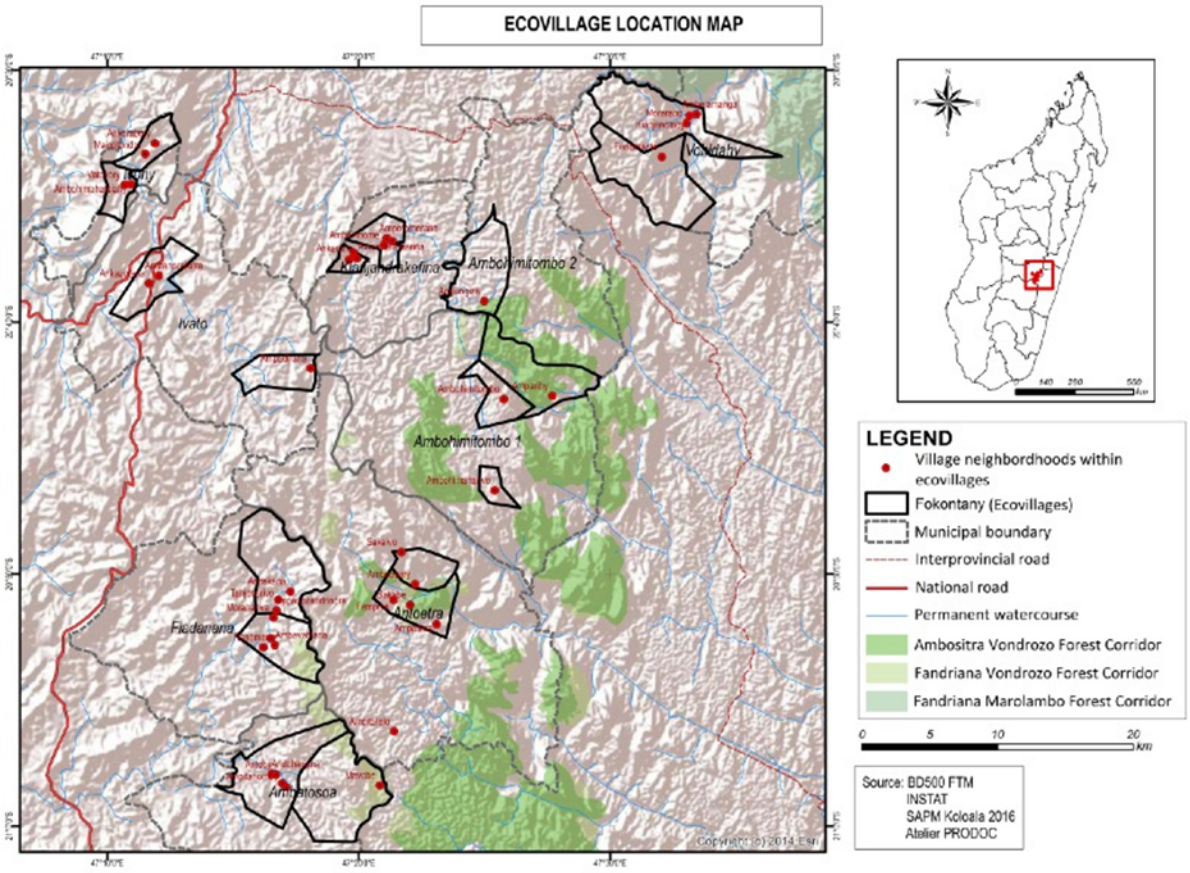


TABLE: LIST OF MUNICIPALITIES, FOKONTANY, AND ECOVILLAGE SITES[1]

REGION	MUNICIPALITY	FOKONTANY	
	Name Commune	Name Fokontany/Ecovillages	Village neighborhoods or sub-village locations within each Ecovillage with number of houses
AMORON'I MANIA	Ambohimitombo 1	Ambohimitombo	Ambohimitombo (238 roofs)
		Ambohimanarivo	Ambohimanarivo (231)
	Ambohimitombo 2	Ampidirana	Angilingiza (80),
		Andempotany	Amparihy (150)
	Antoetra	femina	Fempina (72), Sakabe (25), Ampasina (40) = 137 roofs .
		Sakaivo Avaratra	Sakaivo (105), Amboasary (40)= 145 roofs
	Ivato	Ivato center	Ankazotana , Andranoraikitra (150)
		Ampadirana	Ampadirana (60)
	Ivony Miaramiasa	Ambohimahatsiahy	Ambohimahatsiahy (43), Vatovory (55)
		Maintitondro	Ankorabory (45), Maintintondro (49)
	Kianjandrakefina	Kianjandrakefina	Kianjandrakefina (100), Ambohinome (10) Ampotomerana (20)

		Tsimatahodalana	**Tsimatahodalana (35) Ankerana (40) Ambodialamarina (20)**
	Vohidahy	**Kianjanomby**	**Kianjanomby (57), Morarano (40), ambelamanga (35)**
		Fenomanta	**Fenomantha (85)**
HIGH MATSIATRA	**Ambatosoa**	**Sahanimira**	**Antoby (30), Ampitanomby (20), Andohariana (25), Ampandroan'ny mpanao arina (20) = 95 roofs**
		Ranomainty	**Ampitatelo ex Ambokongaka (60), Mavobe (20) = 80 roofs**
	Fiadanana	**Tanjonarivo**	**Tanjonarivo (50), Andakana (15), Morahariva (30), Ampanozandrindra (28)**
		Ambohimitombo	**Ranomena (52), Ambavafitana (41), Ambohimitombo (62),**
TOTAL	**9 Municipalities**	**18 Fokontany**	

[1] Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations or UNEP concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

[2]Each Fokontany corresponds to an Ecovillage. An ecovillage is made up of 1 or 2 or even 4 neighborhoods. But the name of the ecovillage is that of Fokontany for its administrative attachment

1c. Child Project?

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

This UNEP-GEF project in Madagascar is not a child project for any program.

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.

The project included a wide range of consultations during the PPG stage. Initial stakeholder analysis during the PIF stage was followed up with a wide range of consultations during the PPG stage in terms of the design of the project. During the PPG stage, the stakeholder analysis was updated and further elaborated following consultations undertaken by national consultants under MEDD leadership at the ecovillage sites and with the regional administration addressing both institutional stakeholders in the context of their statutory involvement in the project, and more broadly for non-governmental stakeholders including natural resource-dependent communities. Stakeholder meetings were conducted in the ecovillage sites during the period July to September 2021 to obtain the perspective of the different stakeholders. These meetings were conducted to discuss the project design and reach general consensus on project outcomes, outputs, activities and institutional arrangements for the project. The list of stakeholders consulted and deliberations are provided in Appendix 21.

This project was developed using a transparent, open, and fully participatory approach with the involvement of all groups of relevant stakeholders (government organizations, multilateral and bilateral agencies, NGOs, local communities, and the private sector) at national and project area levels. Focus group consultations (including remote online meetings) were conducted in project regions of Amoron?i Mania and Haute Matsiatris. The key objectives of the consultative process were the following:

? Inform all stakeholders on the project preparation and allow them to participate in the project development and share their concerns about the project proposed implementation;
? Evaluate current level of key threats for sea turtles, seagrass, and coastal communities at the national level and in the project area and identify obvious barriers on the way of to remove or mitigate the threats;
? Collect information on baseline programmes and projects related to the project objective;
? Understand the local, cultural, and political context in the country and the project area;
? Assess the current capacity of government agencies and local communities to combat wildlife crime and manage natural resources sustainably;
? Develop relevant project Outputs based on key national and project area needs and make sure they are complementary to other ongoing and planned projects;
? Conduct Safeguard Risk Identification and rate key social and environmental risks the project may produce directly or indirectly;
? Identify key risks for the project implementation and sustainability of the key results, and develop appropriate risk management measures;
? Clearly define the project area for interventions and collect information on Outcome and Impact Indicators; and
? Identify potential project partners and clarify stakeholder roles in the project implementation.

The purpose of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) for the project is the long-term sustainability of the project achievements, based on transparency and the effective participation of the key stakeholders. The objectives include the following: (a) to identify the main stakeholders of the project and their basic roles and responsibilities in relation to the project; and (b) to take advantage of the experience and skills of the main stakeholders and safeguard their active participation in different activities of the project to reduce obstacles in its implementation and sustainability after completion of the project. The

approach is based on the principles of fairness and transparency in the selection of stakeholders, ensuring consultation, engagement and empowerment of relevant stakeholders comprehensively for better coordination between them from planning to monitoring and assessment of project interventions; access of information and results to relevant persons; accountability of stakeholders; implementing grievances redress mechanism and ensuring the sustainability of project interventions after its completion.

Stakeholder involvement was guided by the objective of the project to promote the sustainable management of protected areas, forests and community production landscapes that secures conservation of globally significant biodiversity, ecological habitats and ecosystem services, ensuring sustainable livelihoods and community soci-economic benefits. MEDD will be instrumental in establishing collaborative links with national, regional and local institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community groups to implement the project.

The SIP was prepared through the identification of the stakeholders that would be involved as partners in the project. These included stakeholders at national, regional and local levels including relevant national ministries; regional administration and regional agencies, local communities (livestock herders, forest dependents, agriculturalists and business groups), research and training institutions, NGOs, community-based organizations (CBOs) and others would be partners in project implementation.

Mechanisms and strategies for stakeholder involvement will ensure that the relevant shareholders receive and share information and provide their inputs in the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of project initiatives and play a role in sustaining the initiatives during and after the closure of the project. Roles and responsibilities of main stakeholders of the project are summarized in Table below.

Key project stakeholders and their roles in the project

Stakeholder	Mandate / Current projects	Potential role in the GEF project
Government agencies and interagency organizations		
Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)	Promotes and ensures the effective management of natural landscapes. It is the responsible, rational and ethical use of natural resources and the environment that sustains them.	? The implementation of the project; ? Presidency of the project committee ? Coordination and monitoring of project activities and co-financing ? Decentralized institutions at the regional level will coordinate activities between different sectors and stakeholders and support implementation activities ? Coordination between GEF and non-GEF projects related to the management of PAs, ecovillages and NCA

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MALF)	Formulates, implements and coordinates agricultural policy; breeding and fishing for sustainable development. Responsible for technical assistance, extension and support for the promotion of sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, the development of the value chain linked to agriculture and insurance against climate risks	? Participation in the development of the project; ? Member of the project committee; ? Coordination with the GEF and non-GEF project implemented by the MALF; ? Project partner for the implementation of sustainable agriculture, land management and livestock management ? Participation in the M&E project
Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (MEAH)	Formulates, implements and coordinates the policy concerning access to drinking water, sanitation, hygiene, etc. Develop strategic action plans for investments at community and regional levels Support community-led sanitation	? Participation in the development of the project with regard to ecovillages; ? Coordination with the GEF and non-GEF project implemented by MEAH; ? Promote public-private partnerships for water and sanitation infrastructure in ecovillages ? Project partner for the implementation of drinking water and sanitation activities
Ministry of Territorial Planning, Housing and Public Works (MATHT), including the land service	Formulates, implements and coordinates the policy relating to land use planning and public works, the laws governing land tenure The Directorate General of Regional Planning (DGAT) promotes regional and social strengthening of the IEM, the coordination of orientations in terms of spatial planning, the promotion of public-private partnerships for housing and infrastructure development Development of Regional Land Use Planning and municipal development plans.	? Participation and technical support for the development / updating of municipal development plans

Inter-ministerial Commission for Protected Areas	Created in 2010. Includes MEDD, MAEH, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Interior and Decentralization, Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts and Ministry of Livestock. Functions: - Facilitation of the creation of PAs in Madagascar, including the NAPs; - Coordination of conservation and development objectives in relation to PAs; - Assistance in the management of the PA.	? Participation in the development of the project; ? Project Partner for component 2; ? Participate in the NCA exercise in component 1 ? Participation in the M&E project
National REDD + Coordination Office Madagascar	Pilot and coordinate all initiatives on REDD + as well as forest carbon projects in general, in particular that relating to the implementation of Madagascar's readiness for REDD +	? Assistance for the articulation of forest carbon credit as part of the PA sustainability strategy and community forest conservation activities) ? Assistance to the development project of the ?carbon credit? project in the project's ecovillages (outcome 3);
Madagascar national parks COFAV	Ecological monitoring and reporting to MEDD. Facilitate the awareness campaign and participate in the promotion of sustainable development of local communities in order to reduce threats to COFAV	? Participation in the development of the project; ? Project Partner for outcome 2; ? Beneficiary of the project; ? Participation in the M&E project
Regional entities		
Regional Directorate for the Environment and Sustainable Development (DREDD) of the Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatris regions	Focal point to support the implementation of the project in the project regions Responsible for the coordination and implementation of environment and sustainable development programs, including PA management, species conservation and forest management	? Support the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the two regions in terms of outputs 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 ? Partners to deliver outputs 1.1 and 1.2 ? Coordinate the delivery of outputs 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3
Regional Directorate of Agriculture and Livestock (DRAE) of the Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatris regions	Responsible for the coordination and implementation of all agricultural development activities, land management and livestock in the regions	? Support the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the two regions in terms of Outcome 3 ? Partners to deliver outputs 1.1 and 1.2
Regional Directorate of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (DREAH)	Responsible for the coordination and implementation of all activities related to integrated water resources management	? Support the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the two regions in terms of results ? Partners to deliver Outputs 1.1 and 1.2

Regional Directorate of Territorial Planning and Land Service (DRATSE)	Responsible for the coordination and implementation of activities related to the development of Regional Land Use Plans and municipal development plans.	? Support the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the two regions ? Partners to deliver Outputs1.1 and 1.2
Regional Directorate of Energy and Hydrocarbons (DREH)	Responsible for coordinating and implementing activities to facilitate access to domestic energy	? Support the planning, implementation and monitoring of project activities in the two regions ? Partners to deliver Outputs 1.1 and 1.2
National REDD + Coordination Office Madagascar	The REDD + mechanism is a climate change mitigation mechanism that consists of remunerating efforts to reduce carbon emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. REDD + activities are mainly oriented towards the objectives of avoided deforestation, forest conservation, increased forest cover and sustainable forest management.	? Help for the development of a forest carbone credits
Madagascar national parks: ? COFAV	Ecological monitoring and reporting to MEDD. Facilitate awareness campaign & participate in law enforcement, promote sustainable development of local communities to reduce threats to COFAV	? Participation in the development of the project; ? Member of the project committee; ? Project co-financing; ? Partner of the project for the results? ? Beneficiary of the project; ? Participation in the M&E project
Intergovernmental bodies and international development organizations		
KfW Development Bank	In Madagascar, low-income households can barely access loans or other financial services like savings accounts. The KfW Development Bank supports Access Bank Madagascar (ABM), which provides small volumes of credit to micro and small businesses and smallholders. Customers who successfully repay their loans can borrow larger amounts afterwards. In this way, the productivity of companies and the incomes of bank customers can be effectively increased. The demand is huge and leads to the positive ripple effect of creating skilled jobs in the bank itself. Currently, ABM has 790 employees in 25 branches, serving nearly 140,000 customers in total.	? Participation in the provision of bridging funding at the end of the project.

USAID	Member of the Technical and Financial Partners Group of MEDD Madagascar and the Environmental Donors Group (an informal group of bilateral and multilateral donors working with various ministries on biodiversity, the fight against wildlife trafficking, climate change, land tenure and related concerns).	? Funding / co-funding of studies and / or actions on ECN
World Bank	WAVES program Roadmap for accounting for Madagascar's Natural Capital (2016)	? Project co-financing
French Development Agency	Co-organizer with MEDD of the natural capital forum in Madagascar (March 2021)	? Project co-financing
Non-governmental organizations		
Madagascar Biodiversity and Protected Areas Trust Fund (FAPBM)	Provides funds for the management of protected areas	? Project co-financing
WWF	Author of the Natural Capital and Organization Strategy Guide (WWF France- 2019) Co-organizer with MEDD of the natural capital forum in Madagascar (March 2021)	? Project co-financing
Conservation International (CI)	Conservation international Madagascar aims to protect nature, which guarantees us food, fresh water and livelihoods.	? Project co-financing ? Exchange of lessons learned between projects; ? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project
ANAE: National Association of Environmental Actions	Sustainable land management - Agroecology - Protection and restoration of biodiversity - Resilience to climate change - Restoration of natural forests - Improved stoves and alternative fuels - Restoration and protection of natural resources - Food security - Source protection	? As a project executing partner of the MEDD, ANAE is responsible for implementing activities related to the sustainable management of project land, within the ecovillages
GRET: Research and technology exchange group	GRET acts for local governance of natural resources, ensuring their sustainability and greater equity between users. Its teams support the management of protected areas, forests, coastal areas and water resources. They propose the introduction of incentive economic instruments, if necessary.	? As a project-executing partner of the MEDD, GRET is responsible for implementing activities related to the development of renewable energies and energy efficiency devices, waste recovery within ecovillages.

MNP: Madagasikara National Parks	Madagascar National Parks currently manages 43 Protected Areas made up of National Parks, Special Reserves and Integral Nature Reserves.	? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project
The Ecovillage TSARATANANA association	The Tsarat?nana ecovillage is one of the first in Madagascar. It is a resource place for the benefit of its inhabitants, but also of the territory in which it is established and even beyond. The TSARATANANA eco-village is located in the Analamanga region. Currently, 70 inhabitants (17 families) including 31 adults and 39 children -11 brick houses and 5 wooden chalets -01 Community House which includes: (La M?diath?que - A kitchen - A Large Multipurpose Room - A Showroom) -Eco-lodge (restaurant and kitchen - 04 rooms for volunteers) -Workshop -Changing room -Sports field -Eco-School (07 classes; Educational permaculture garden; Media library; Canteen; house for the janitor)	? Exchange of lessons learned between projects; ? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project
Association CEDRE Madagascar	The Rural Development and Autonomy Training Center (CEDAR) has two main objectives: - Strengthen the knowledge and skills of producers to help them in their activities and promote the sustainability of natural resources. - Set up a production model that preserves the environment.	? Exchange of lessons learned between projects; ? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project ?
ARSIA: Association of the Environmental Information Systems Network	It is a structure of animation and consultation for organizations and resource persons having or using information relating to the environment.	? Exchange of lessons learned between projects; ? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project ? Partner to deliver outputs 4.1
Local communities		

Local communities of 18 ecovillages	Participation in sustainable management and protection	? Participation in the development of the project; ? Project partner for components 2 and 3 ? Participation in the M&E of the project;
Local communities in adjacent ecovillages/ municipalities	Participation in sustainable management and protection	? Beneficiary of the project ? Learning good practices ? Participation in the M&E project
Research organizations		
C3EDM (Center for Economy and Ethics for the Environment and Development of Madagascar) - University of Antananarivo	Analysis and study on development and the environment, as well as issues of fairness, ethics, morals and accountability. Conduct of the assessment of natural capital (Green Accounts for the sustainable management of the New Protected Areas of Antrema and Bombetoka)	? Project partner for component 1
IOGA (Institute of Observatory and Geophysics of Antananarivo)	Conduct of the assessment of natural capital (Green Accounts for the sustainable management of the New Protected Areas of Antrema and Bombetoka)	? Project partner for component 1
DPEV (Department of Plant Biology and Ecology) - University of Antananarivo)	Conduct of the assessment of natural capital (Green Accounts for the sustainable management of the New Protected Areas of Antrema and Bombetoka)	? Project partner for component 1
Private Sector and Professional associations		

Naturally Companie	Private sector working in the production of essential oil in the Amoron'i Mania region. It is also developing reforestation activities mobilizing the local community in the areas of exploitation.	? Project co-financing ? Exchange of lessons learned between projects; ? Participation in consultation meetings ? Planning support ? Support for the launch and implementation of the project ? Project partner to component 3
Local Producers and business partners	To provide technical support, market access and product development at ecovillage level to support non-farm and farm-based small scale enterprises and livelihood activities	? Techhnical support ? Market access ? Planning and value chain support ? Business planning support ?

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

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) Yes

Contracted service providers

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

Madagascar is committed to gender equality and developed its National Policy for the Promotion of Women (PNPF) in 1995, which has been under implementation since 2000. In 2001, the Malagasy

Government developed a strategy for integration of gender into all projects and programs at each institution, and a National Gender and Development Action Plan (PANAGED) was developed in 2003. Further, in 2007, several national laws were revised to reflect national commitment to gender equality.

However, according to the Gender Development Index (GDI), Madagascar had a GDI of 0.952 in 2019. Inequalities persist in Malagasy society and this impacts on women?s economic and social wellbeing. Traditional practices and poor access to education are the main obstacles to gender equality in Madagascar. These inequalities between men and women are also visible in terms of natural resource management. Forest degradation has a direct negative impact on women and children as they are particularly vulnerable to changes in the environment (particularly their health and survival). Taking care of the family home and children, as well as participating in agricultural practices, women often remain the only economic support for their families, especially during the regular lean periods. Men often abandon their homes in periods of difficulty and re-marry (polygamy is common) with the result that many women have to raise children as single parents. On average, each woman bears 6 children with a birth rate of 4.83%.

The PPG gender analysis (Appendix 19) clearly demonstrated that all three gender gaps identified by the GEF Gender Implementation Strategy (2018) are relevant for this particular Project:

? Unequal access to and control of natural resources;
? Unbalanced participation and decision making in environmental planning and governance at all levels;
? Uneven access to socio-economic benefits and services.

To improve this situation and address the gaps in the context of the GEF project, appropriate gender and social measures have been fully considered in the project design, and gender accountability is a crosscutting issue that will be tracked as part of the project M&E system (see Appendix 7 for details). During the project development, during project preparation, efforts were made to try to involve as many women as possible in the consultation process.

To implement gender mainstreaming, the project will develop and implement an effective Gender Mainstreaming Strategy as a part of the ESMP. The strategy will guide the project implementation to build project partner capacity to mainstream gender and bring along strategies that empower women as agents rather than as victims of wildlife and forest depletion, habitat degradation, and climate change. This strategy will also facilitate a multi-stakeholder analysis of the gender issues with a clear set of measurable gender indicators.

The key guidelines for the strategy are outlined below:

? Gender balance will be ensured as much as possible regarding women participation in the Project Steering Committee and in the PCU. Project interventions will seek a greater and more even gender representation with the potential for gender mainstreaming-related activities at the national level and in the project area. Furthermore, relevant gender representation will be pursued in the project implementation. All project staff recruitment shall be specifically undertaken inviting and encouraging women applicants. The TORs for key project staff all incorporate gender mainstreaming related responsibilities.
? The project will adopt the following principles in the day to day management, women and other vulnerable groups (marginalized poor local communities in the project area) will be actively and demonstrably included in project activities and management whenever possible, including in engagement in conservation, livelihood and small-scale enterprise development activities.
? The project will promote gender mainstreaming and capacity building within its project staff to improve understanding of gender issues, and will appoint a Communication and M&E Manager who will serve as a focal point for gender issues to support development, implementation, monitoring and strategy on gender mainstreaming internally and externally. This will include facilitating gender equality in capacity development and women?s empowerment and participation in the project activities. The project will also work with UNEP experts in gender issues to utilize their expertise in

gender mainstreaming. These requirements will be monitored by the UNEP during project implementation.

? The project has gender-disaggregated indicators in the RFA for regular monitoring and evaluation of the project progress and reporting, and will facilitate involvement of women in the M&E and Grievance Redress Mechanism implementation.

Proposed gender mainstreaming activities in the project components

Project Components	Measures relating to gender mainstreaming
Component 1: Strengthening policy and institutional frameworks for Natural Capital Assessment (NCA).	Active outreach to women and women?s groups to participate in development of the natural capital assessment (Output 1.1); Ensure participation of at least 25% of women in the various natural capacity building training programs (Outputs 1.1 and 1.2) Promotion of potential involvement of women in NCA assessment case studies related to ecovillages (Output 1.3)
Component 2: Enabling Policy (Land Use Plans) capacity building and tools in support of the management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation in the Central Highlands.	Active involvement of women in the land use plan development and realization process (Output 2.1) Participation of women in PA management planning, decision making and monitoring (Output 2.2) Active engagement of women in the implementation of co-management activities in COFAV, being part of monitoring, surveillance and monitoring of COFAV and conservation-related activities. (Output 2.3)
Component 3: Pilot ecovillages to reduce rates of deforestation, protect habitat, improve landscape productivity (addressed by component 1) and enhanced livelihoods.	Involvement of women in the village and ecovillage committees and planning and decision-making related to project investments (Output 3.1); Gender-sensitive consultations on development and implementation of community, SLM, SFM plans (Output 3.2) Through a 50/50 policy for training, provide women-friendly training facilities to increase their capacity in PA management, SFM, SLM in the project area (Output 3.2); Active involvement of women in the planning and implementation of alternative livelihood income sources and value-chains for local communities in the project area (Output 3.3); Develop fair rules for distribution of the project community-based initiatives benefits to women and marginalized groups in the target communities (Output 3.3); Increase the focus of interventions on female-headed households as beneficiaries of the projects (Output 3.3).

Component 4: Communication, Knowledge Management and project monitoring and Evaluation	Develop and implement a project gender strategy (Output 4.1); Apply gender-specific consultations for ESIA and ESMP development (Output 4.4) Apply gender-specific analysis in the project M&E (Output 4.4); Ensure easy access of local women to GRM (Output 4.1); Active involvement of women in the project M&E processes (Output 4.4); Incorporate gender issues in the process of lesson learning and Involve women and women organizations in the generation of gender lessons (Output 4.1); Consider gender-related reporting in KM and Lessons Learnt reports (Output 4.1 and 4.3);
Project Management	Ensure that both men and women are visible and inclusive in the project documents; Collect gender-sensitive data (age, ethnicity, income, education) for reporting and planning; Apply gender clause to human resource recruitment, encouraging the applications from women candidates and their hiring; At inception: gender screening of the project design and work plan; TORs of all staff to include specific responsibilities, which support mainstreaming of gender throughout project implementation.

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.

One of the strengths of this project is to be established in two regions that have a strong potential in terms of the presence of the private sector, which works mainly in the field of forest production as well as local producers and business partners that will provide technical support, market access and product development at ecovillage level to support non-farm and farm based small scale enterprises and livelihood activities under Outcome 3.

The project is planning some private sector involvement to deliver the Outputs under Outcome 3, specifically:

- **Naturally Companie** (working in the production of essential oil in the Amoron'i Mania region and developing reforestation activities mobilizing the local community in the areas of exploitation). The Naturally Companie will provide project co-financing; participate in the exchange of lessons learned between projects; participate in consultation meetings; provide planning support to the project activities; and partner with the project to deliver Outputs under Outcome 3;
- **Local Producers and business partners in the project area** will provide technical support, market access and product development at ecovillage level to support non-farm and farm based small scale

enterprises and livelihood activities under Outcome 3. This includes the craftsmen who transform forest products into works of art with a ?Zafimaniry? label, agricultural producers who produce indigenous young plants, and medium-sized companies who exploit and export essential oils.

The involvement of the private sector in the project takes two complementary forms:

-Representatives of private sector partners will sit on the project steering committee to provide strategic guidance for the conduct of the project.

- As part of project implementation there will be collaboration with agricultural producers providing indigenous young plants, necessary for the forest restoration of protected areas, as well as for the restoration of degraded lands at the level of watersheds. Medium-sized enterprises will be encouraged to collaborate with the inhabitants of the ecovillages for the establishment of a value chain leading to the creation of green jobs for the local community of the ecovillages. Finally, the "Zafimaniry" craftsmen within the ecovillages will collaborate with the project by actively participating in forest restoration and reforestation activities, as well as in the preservation of the surrounding biodiversity, on which the sustainability of their development activity depends.

All prospective private sector partners will be expected to comply with the requirements of UNEP?s Partnership Policy and Procedures (2018). Private Sector partners will also be expected to uphold the principles and standards of UNEP?s Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2020) and comply with all safeguards risk management plans included in the project?s Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

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):

???During the PPG process and ESSF assessment, a set of key project risks was identified (see Table below). The risks are divided into two categories: (1) the external and internal risks to the project implementation, achievement and sustainability of the project results; and (2) the risks that can be produced by the project itself in social and environmental spheres (ESSF risks) at national and/or project area levels. The project will monitor both categories of risks quarterly and report on the status of the risks to the UNEP. Management responses to High risks will also be reported to the GEF in the annual PIRs.

Project Risks and Risk Management Measures

Risk Description	Impact (I), Probability (P) and Risk Level (RL)	Risk Management Measures
Risks to the project implementation, achievement, and sustainability of the project results		

Covid-19 pandemic may disrupt and delay the project implementation due to travel and meeting restrictions and limit or constrain consultations.	I=3 P=3 RL=9 **Moderate**	This threat was already experienced at PPG stage, although it was possible to have stakeholder consultations and field visits with adequate precautions and safeguard measures. To manage the risks during the project implementation the following measures will be used: ? PCU will monitor Covid-19 situation at national level and in the project area, in consultation with regional authorities and following official government communiqu?s; ? MEDD and PCU will explore options for to conduct the Inception Workshop, Project Steering Committee, and other stakeholder meetings with necessary precautions (smaller groups, PPR, social distancing and masking, and if the situation worsens following national/regional protocols and using on-line platforms to the extent possible and/or with limited number of participants practicing protective measures and/or conducted outdoors; ? The project is designed on the partnerships with organizations mainly located in Madagascar that will limit the needs of international travel to implement the project; ? Some of the project activities can be reasonably delayed until restrictions are over in the framework of adaptive management and later fast-tracked for implementation; ? The GEF will be informed in case of delays and the project can request a reasonable extension to deliver all Outputs;
Covid-19 pandemic may continue to disrupt the country?s economy and may negatively impact Government co-financing commitments to the project	I=3 P=3 RL=9 **Moderate**	This risk can negatively influence the project implementation through insufficient co-financing. To mitigate the risk the PMU will implement the following measures: ? Review and prioritizing of the project activities to ensure GEF funding and co-financing is sufficient for the most important of them; ? Leverage additional resources from international donors, NGOs, and private sector to mitigate impact of insufficient government co-financing.

Covid-19 pandemic may continue to worsen resulting in changes to baselines in terms of accelerating resource exploitation due to economic disruptions	I=3 P=3 RL=9 **Moderate**	This risk can accelerate forest clearing and exploitation if people?s source of livelihoods are disrupted due to economic hardships, market access and demand for produce, etc. To mitigate this risk, the PCU will implement the following measures: ? Undertake evaluation of Covid risks during the ecovillage formation and investment planning to focus, in particular on vulnerable and poor populations and identify potential options for provision of alternative income generation opportunities, if the disease becomes a problem. ? The gender actions will also specifically focus on vulnerable women in high-risk areas. The livelihood, small agro-business exercises and alternative energy activities can help develop people respond to and ensuring income recovery. ? Special efforts would be made to enhance technical support, extension services and materials to enable the successful implementation of such activities, if the need arises. ? Convening discussions on better targeting of the poor and vulnerable and increasing options for financing for these livelihood activities as well as to tide over difficult periods.
Limited awareness of impacts of Covid-19 could exacerbate impacts if infection rates increase	I=3 P=2 RL=6 **Moderate**	The lack of information on implications of COVID-19 and means for its prevention, particularly in some of the remote settlements can be a problem. To mitigate this risk, the PMU will implement the following measures: ? Through its communication and knowledge management strategy in the ecovillage sites to maintain a system of on-going communication to foster improved coordination, speed and efficiency of directing awareness of COVID-19 protocols for management and control of the disease. ? Work with the Directorates of Health and Family Planning to disseminate lessons of COVID-19 control from other parts of the country and make communities aware of resources that might be available for control, testing and management of the disease

Low MEDD capacity for effective project management may result in implementation delays and incomplete achievement of project Outcomes	I= 3 P=3 RL=9 **Moderate**	UNDP HACT Assessment of MEDD as the project Executing Agency in 2020 demonstrated overall **Significant** risk and low capacity for the project management. To mitigate this risk the following measures will be implemented: ? UNEP will provide MEDD with comprehensive capacity building and project management program that will be completed before the project will start; ? The project document defines key partners for implementation of the project Outputs as a guidance to the PCU procurement process; ? PCU will have a sufficient staff with clear responsibilities and will be provided with training on the Results-Based Management (RBM), UNEP project planning, reporting, implementation, and monitoring process by UNEP; ? PCU will have an experienced Technical Expert (International Consultant) working part-time to guide the PCU through UNEP project planning, reporting, implementation, and monitoring process.
The project has to deal with coordination across local and regional levels, with a multitude of directorates, stakeholders and other interests with potential risk of divergent priorities across scales that might constraint achievement of intended project objectives	I=3 P=3 RL =9 **Moderate**	The lack of effective means of coordination across various entities and administrative levels can impact on achievement of project outcomes. This impact will be mitigated by the following measures: ? Creation of a Regional Steering Committee at each of the two regions of Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra with the intent of facilitating engagement, transparency and coordination among key regional decision-makers, sectoral entities and stakeholders towards strengthening capacities and institutional arrangements for support of the ecovillages program. ? Meaningful engagement and cooperation of development sectors in support of the ecovillage activities ? Advocacy programs to provide science-based policy advice for biodiversity integration in sector and local-level planning and define roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders in management of the conservation estate as well as promote sustainable productive activities within the villages. ? At municipality level, formation of ecovillage committees that would include community members, land users and the mayor to monitor and evaluate project relevance, consistency and performance, strategic orientation to ensure sustainability and information sharing, communication and collective actions

Commitment by villages to change and adopt new practices might not be adequate to achieve widespread adoption of alternatives to destructive activities such as shifting cultivation, uncontrolled grazing and forest clearing	I=3 P=3 RL =9 Moderate	There might be a reluctance to change behavior that is a key constraint to successful ecovillage. The PMU will manage this risk through the following measures: ? Gradual process to demonstrate effectiveness of alternatives in the short and long terms to convince people to change their behaviors ? Promoting site visits, access to best practices and training to build support for ecovillages ? Through the NCA providing information to demonstrate the costs of destructive activities and economic benefits of alternative options ? Ensuring alternate livelihoods in the short terms to meet needs, while mid and long term benefits from ecovillages begin to materialize
Limited capacity of community members in conservation and sustainable management practices might limit successes	I=3 P=3 RL =9 **Moderate**	The lack of capacity among communities and the long gestation period to derive benefits from co-management might indicate reluctance of communities to effectively participate. The PCU will mitigate this impact by the following measures: ? Local village trainers (FLV) will be trained to support the village committee in the implementation of activities after having been trained in the different themes: SLM, agroecology, composting, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated crop protection, production and planting of fruit plants, fuelwood and timber, the production and restoration of indigenous plants, the dissemination of practices aimed at energy efficiency, source protection, ecological monitoring, agricultural integration animal husbandry, cash crop production, rural accounting and marketing. ? This strategy makes it possible to promote and strengthen local skills, minimize conflicts of interest and make project actions sustainable ? Through this means establish a long-term technical relationship between the project and local villages

Political patronage and vested interests can sabotage the program	I=3 P=3 RL =9 **Moderate**	Unless there is local political support and transparent measures to implement activities, it is likely that benefits might not accrue to the most deserving. The PMU will manage this risk through the following measures: ? Ensuring that the mayor is included as part of the ecovillage committees at the municipality level so that he/she is aware and fully supportive of the program ? Ecovillage planning and development rules in relation to transparency, equity and participation are followed at all stages of planning and implementation by designing measures to ensure transparency at all stages of implementation of local development activities. ? Ensuring that there is political support before the commencement of the program ? Establishment of a grievance redressal mechanism to ensure that any conflict is identified and resolved in a transparent and effective manner ? Monitoring and evaluation will capture benefit transfers that ensure that it is equitable
Management of national park have little experience in co-management arrangements that might preclude them from whole hearted support for this approach	I=3 P=3 RL =9 **Moderate**	As a consequence, there might be conflict between traditional PA management and co-management approaches that might further alienate communities. The PMU will manage this risk by following measures: ? Establishing rules and regulations regarding co-management and benefit-sharing that are laid own in a memorandum of agreement signed between the PA authority and the ecovillages ? The PA authorities work collectively with the ecovillages providing technical support and advisory services ? Independent monitoring via PCU to ensure that agreements are followed
Social and environmental risks triggered by the project		
Multiple environmental and moderate project risks can have a significant negative impact on local communities in the project area	I= 3 L=3 RL=9 **Moderate**	See risk descriptions in Appendix 17. UNEP Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF) and management measures in the sub-section 3.11. The project will implement ESIA, develop an ESMP and will follow the ESMP during the implementation of the project activities.

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.

?**Project Implementing Agency** ? The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is the GEF?s Implementing Agency for this project. UNEP will implement the project through its Ecosystems Division and will be responsible for overall project supervision. UNEP will also monitor the implementation of the activities undertaken during the execution of the project and will provide the overall coordination and ensure that the project is in line with UNEP?s Medium-Term Strategy and its Program of Work. Project supervision is entrusted to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager (TM) and Fund Management Officer (FMO). UNEP will bring to bear its vast scientific and empirical experience of critical relevance to the objectives of the project through sharing experiences of its other projects being supported by GEF or other agencies. Other specific Implementing Agency responsibilities include ensuring compliance with GEF policies and

standards for results-based M&E, fiduciary oversight, safeguards compliance, project budget approvals, technical guidance and oversight of project outputs, approval of Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), participation in the project?s superior governance structure, preparation of the project?s Terminal Evaluation.

The **Project Executing Agency** for this project is the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Madagascar (MEDD). The Executing Agency is the entity to which the UNEP has entrusted the implementation of the GEF assistance specified in this signed project document along with the assumption of full responsibility and accountability for the effective use of GEF resources and the delivery of outputs, as set forth in this document. The Executing Agency is responsible for executing this project. Specific tasks include:

? Project planning, coordination, management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This includes providing all required information and data necessary for timely, comprehensive and evidence-based project reporting, including results and financial data, as necessary. The Executing Agency will strive to ensure project-level M&E is undertaken by national institutes and is aligned with national systems so that the data used and generated by the project supports national systems;

? Risk management as outlined in this Project Document;

? Procurement of goods and services, including human resources;

? Financial management, including overseeing financial expenditures against project budgets;

? Approving and signing the multiyear work plan;

? Approving and signing the combined delivery report at the end of the year; and,

? Signing the financial report or the funding authorization and certificate of expenditures.

The **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** is the project?s superior governing body responsible for taking corrective action as needed to ensure the project achieves the desired results. The PSC will be chaired by The Secretary General, MEDD, and will consist of the representatives of MEDD, MALF, MEAH, MATHT, Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons, Decentralized Territorial Collectivities (Region, Communes) of Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra, private sector representatives and selected NGOs (the PSC will be formed during the project inception phase). The PSC will meet at least once per year. Specific responsibilities of the PSC include:

? Provide overall guidance and direction to the project, ensuring it remains within any specified constraints;
? Address project issues as raised by the project manager;
? Provide guidance on new project risks, and agree on possible mitigation and management actions to address specific risks;
? Advise on major and minor amendments to the project within the parameters set by UNEP-GEF;
? Ensure coordination between various donor and government-funded projects and programmes;
? Ensure coordination with various government agencies and their participation in project activities;
? Track and monitor co-financing for this project;
? Review the project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year;
? Appraise the annual project implementation report, including the quality assessment rating report;
? Ensure commitment of human resources to support project implementation, arbitrating any issues within the project;
? Review combined delivery reports prior to certification by the Executing Agency;
? Provide direction and recommendations to ensure that the agreed deliverables are produced satisfactorily according to plans;
? Address project-level grievances;

? Approve the project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses;
? Review the final project report package during an end-of-project review meeting to discuss lesson learned and opportunities for scaling up.
? Ensure highest levels of transparency and take all measures to avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.

Regional Steering Committee: At the regional level in Amoron'i Mania and Haute Matsiatra Regions a Regional Steering Committee will be established to facilitate coordination all the activities carried out at the level of ecovillages spread over the 9 municipalities. It would offer legal guidance for the management of ecovillages. The Regional Steering Committees will facilitate coordination between MEDD and the decentralized territorial collectivity (the communes), decentralized technical services (ST) in the various regional directorates and the technical and financial partners (PTFs). The composition of the Regional Steering Committees would be the following:

? The Governor of the region (President),
? Regional Director in charge of the environment (executive secretary)
? The director of infrastructure and development in the region
? Heads of districts of intervention communes
? Regional Directors in charge of agriculture
? Regional Directors in charge of water
? Regional Directors in charge of regional planning
? The managers of the two parks
? The representative of civil society
? The representative of the private sector working in the field of the exploitation of natural resources

The **Technical Committee** in the project area will ensure project coordination among all local stakeholders and their involvement in the participatory project M&E and management under PMU guidance; the Committee will directly ensure access of local community to GRM channels. The Technical Committees? recommendations will be reviewed and taken into consideration by the PSC at its meetings as well as by the PMU. The locations of Technical Committees? meetings will be determined during the project implementation in the project area. The Technical Committee will consist from local representatives of MEDD, DREDD, target NPAs staff, local community representatives, and NGOs.

Project Coordination Unit: The Project Coordination Unit will be located in Antanarivo at the MEDD headquarter and consist from the following staff: Project Director (MEDD Senior Staff), Project Coordinator, Local (Field) Coordinators, who however will be located in the two regions, Financial Officer, Technical and Communication manager. The Project Coordinator in charge of the PCU, the monitoring and evaluation expert and the accountant are staff appointed by the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development, or in the absence of competence, staff recruited on a competitive basis.

The PCU will serve as a critical link between the ministry, with project partners taking responsibility for management of thematic areas (regulatory framework; NCA, forest restoration, agroecology, waste valuation, and renewable energies), and the different groups involved in the project activities, will ensure that the activities planned by the project are properly executed and that the lessons learned are shared between sites and within national committees and to give visibility of the project to national and international levels. The PCU will be responsible for ensuring adequate communication of information to all national and international partners. The operational activities of the project will be implemented by the Central and Regional bodies of the ministry, implementing partners such as ANAE and GRET, the ESE Unit in UNEP and consultants. The ministry through the PCU will be responsible for the project. Detailed TORs of PCU staff is provided in Appendix 9

•**Project Director** (co-financing, senior staff member of MEDD, based at Antananarivo will lead the PCU and be responsible for the management of the project. The PD?s primary responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost. The PD will approve, on behalf of the Government and

the PSB, quarterly work plans and reports, including quarterly progress reports, expenditure plans and financial report(s); facilitate the establishment of a mechanism for integrating project plans as well as project learning into appropriate long-term plans and operating systems of the Ministry and its respective departments at the regional level; provide guidance in the coordination and ensure consistency of approaches across the two regions and among the different partners; and provide advice to the PSB and direction to the PCU as necessary, to overcome conflicts, constraints, mitigate risks and resolve implementation. The PD will be supported by administrative staff of MEDD and the PCU team in managing the day-to-day activities of the project.

? **Project Coordinator** (full-time, based in Antananarivo). The PC will provide support for PD and take a leadership role in overseeing and managing the technical aspects of the project. The PC will be responsible for the overall technical support for the execution of technical project components (66%) and also support some management aspects related to the technical components of the Project (34% of her/his time) and, including the mobilization of all project inputs, supervision over project staff, consultants and sub-contractors. He/she will be hired full-time contract for initially 3 years, with the option of renewal by agreement with the Ministry and UNEP. The PC will report to the Project Director and will be in close consultation as necessary with the UNEP GEF Task Manager for all of the Project?s substantive technical issues, In particular, the PC will oversee the monitoring of the implementation of the Project results agreement, safeguard related aspects (including the preparation and monitoring of the ESMP), risk management and implementation of the gender plan. See specific tasks of the Project Coordinator in the Appendix 9.

•**Local (Field) Coordinators (2)** (full time, based in the two Regions and supported by co-financing) will be directly involved in the coordination of field activities in the municipalities and ecovillages to support the Executing Partners ANAE and GRET. They will be recruited by MEDD and supervised by the National Coordinator. The two local coordinators at the level of the two intervention regions (LC) will ensure the consistency of the project activities with local development policies (region, municipality) and planning processes (regional planning of land use and development, common-level planning) and will monitor the progress of the project. The tasks will include procurement, disbursements, financial and technical reports, project monitoring and evaluation, including aspects of environmental and social safeguards. They will report to the NC.

•**Communication and Monitoring and Evaluation Manager** (full time, based in Antananarivo and supported by co-financing) will be directly responsible for timely and high-quality delivery of the project activities, including the communication, awareness activities and monitoring and evaluation The officer will be appointed by MEDD and will work directly with the PCU staff, different partners and stakeholders in the project area. The manager will develop and deliver the knowledge management and communication aspects of the project, monitor and oversee the achievement of indicators in the RFA, gender and safeguards actions and stakeholder engagement plan. The manager will annually update the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, ESMP and ensure their implementation through the delivery of all project Outputs; lead on obtaining GEF and RFA indicator values for the project Objective and Outcomes with support from other PCU staff; advise the National Coordinator on project risk assessment and implementation of the risk management and ESMP measures on a quarterly basis; report to the PSC on Output delivery for Outcome 3; organize in cooperation with key partners the Outcome 4 events; organize and lead on the project communication activities.

•**Finance Officer** (full-time, based in Antanaravio) will will be appointed by the Executing Agency and will assist the National Coordinator Manager and other PCU staff to set up the project annual work plans (AWP) in relevant operating systems; track and monitor the use of allocations, track approval of budget revisions and their uploading; create e-requisitions, check budget for accuracy, and do receipts for payments; generate financial reports and prepare monthly delivery monitoring tables for the assigned

project, check for correctness, identify issues, contribute to development of solutions; support project management in performing budget cycle: planning, preparation, revisions, and budget execution; process all types of payment requests for settlement purposes including quarterly advances to the partners upon joint review; monitor budget expenditures, ensuring that no expenditure is incurred before it has been authorized and maintain a proper record of commitments and planned expenditures; ensure that contractual processes follow the stipulated UNEP and GEF procedures. See specific tasks of the Finance Officer in Appendix 9.

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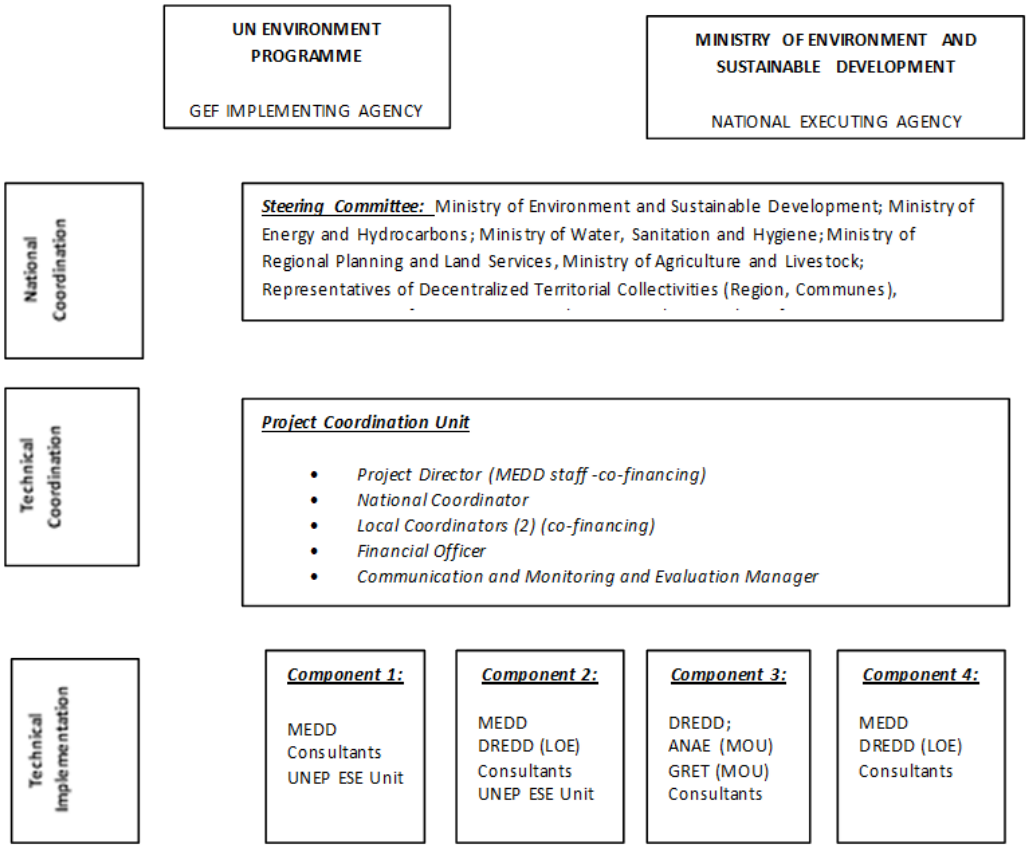
The PCU will directly work with project partners and stakeholders for each project Outcome to deliver the project Outputs. The full project implementation diagram is shown in the figure below:



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•**Ecovillage Committee:** At the municipality, an ecovillage committee will be set up. The two village committees in the village (fokontany) will be merged at the municipal level to form the ecovillage committee. The role of the community is to: ensure project management at the level of each municipality, define the strategic orientation of project actions to ensure sustainability, provide information, awareness and communication on the actions of the project and monitor and evaluation of the relevance, consistency and performance of actions carried out at the level of each ecovillage. The ecovillage committee will consist of the following:

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•Mayor of the municipality concerned (President)
•The Chief Environment Officer (Executive Secretary)
•The Chief of the Fokontany housing the ecovillages in the town
•The President of each ecovillage

Village Committee: This committee will be responsible at the village level to coordinate with the design of activities, implementation and monitoring of project activities, mobilization of villagers for planning and implementation of activities, conflict management and resolution, animation of discussions and reflections on the actions of the project at the village level through a general assembly of villagers and at the level of project promoters through reporting, capacity building and training of villagers through local thematic village trainers and management of green space and ecological center. The members of the village committee will include the following:

- The President of the ecovillage (to be elected by the villagers of the ecovillage)
- The Board member of the ecovillage (advisor, treasurer, secretary)
- The leaders of ecovillages (elected by the villagers)
- Representatives of the villagers

Local village trainers (FLV) would be elected based on agreed selection criteria (young, educated at least to high school level, participation of women encouraged). The project will provide training to the FLVs to support the village committee in the implementation of activities after having been trained in the different themes: SLM, agroecology, composting, sustainable agricultural practices, integrated crop protection, integrated water resources management, production and planting of fruit plants, fuelwood and timber, the production and restoration of indigenous plants, the dissemination of practices aimed at energy efficiency, source protection, ecological monitoring, agricultural integration animal husbandry, cash crop production, rural accounting and marketing. This strategy makes it possible to promote and strengthen local skills, minimize conflicts of interest and make project actions sustainable. The FLVs will train and guide villagers to implement these programs.

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

The project is consistent with and contributes to the implementation of a number of national development strategies and plans focused on conservation and sustainable development in Madagascar, including:

The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2015-2025: BSAP aims to ensure that environment is preserved, taking advantage for its welfare and sustainable use and enhancement and reasoned with rich and valued biodiversity, resilient to environmental change. In relation to the project, the NBSAP, in particular, recognizes the need to value data and mobilize capacity to incorporate social and environmental dimensions and biodiversity values in the policy, strategies, national and regional plans and programs taking into consideration the value and significance of natural capital in its planning and payment for ecosystem services. It also recognizes the value of mainstreaming PAs into the overall environmental landscape in the country, including in particular, establishing sustainable management and financial mechanisms and participatory approaches with local communities for management of protected areas, requiring the strengthening of technical and organizational capacities of local communities and other stakeholders to enable them to co-manage the protected area. It also considers, as a priority the reduction of direct pressures on biodiversity by promoting sustainable use of natural resources through a coordinated, inter-sectoral and integrated approach in land use planning. All the planned investments within the framework of this project stem from the guiding principles of the national strategy and action plans for biodiversity 2015 - 2025, in particular in points: (i) 5-Integrating the value of biodiversity and its ecosystem services into all national planning sectors and processes is an essential element to guarantee ecologically and economically sustainable development; (ii) 7- Ensure sustainable financing mechanisms to meet national commitments in biodiversity conservation and natural resource management; and (iii) 8-

See all opportunities to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants through the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The National Policy and Commitment for the Neutrality of Land Degradation, which outlines the process and provides guidelines for voluntary commitments on neutral land degradation, including activities on landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management. This is to be achieved through a number of specific targets, including: improving productivity and carbon stocks in cultivated and grazing areas; improving cover of green infrastructure; reduce conversion of forests and reduce conversion of wetlands. The priority measures identified are: integration of concepts of LDN with land planning and sectoral policies and strategies; achieve 200,000 ha of sustainable agricultural practices 200,000 ha by 2025; reduce pasture fires by 2030; restore 400,000 ha of landscapes every year using green infrastructure by 2025, reinforce intersectoral innovation capacity and mobilize financial incentives to promote research in SLM in relation to biodiversity and climate change.

The National Strategy for the Fight Against Climate Change, which addresses building community resilience to the impacts of climate change, supporting adaptation interventions, dissemination of technical and agro-ecological information, as well as REDD+ climate change mitigation efforts;

The Intended Nationally Determined Contribution is aimed at reducing 30MtCO_2 of its emission of GHG, representing 14% of national emissions, compared to the BAU, that is conditioned on financial support from global partners through reduction of GHG emissions in the energy sector (promoting renewables and alternatives, energy efficiency, improved stoves, etc.), agriculture (intensive/improved rice farming, conservation agriculture and climate-smart agriculture, arboriculture, etc.), LULUCF (large scale reforestation for sustainable timber production and indigenous species for conservation; reduction of forest timber extraction; promotion of REDD-plus; adoption of agroforestry, etc.) and Waste management (biogas production from waste water and ; sustainable management of organic household waste)

The National Environmental Policy, which identifies as national priorities, and guides Madagascar?s efforts to combat, land degradation, desertification, drought, soil erosion, and loss of vegetative cover;

The National Environmental Policy for Sustainable Development (2015), that seeks to: i) ensure that Madagascar remains a biodiversity hotspot; ii) ensure sustainable management of terrestrial, aquatic, marine and coastal natural resources, habitats and ecosystems; iii) promote a healthy living environment for the population; iv) increase the contribution of environmental goods and services to the national economy; and v) establish a framework supporting the involvement of all sectors in sustainable management of the environment.

The National Forest Policy and Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity, which identifies sustainable land management and forest degradation as national priorities, and the Agricultural Sector Policy, which promotes the sustainable use of resources, improving productivity through the development of applied research, and the advancement of sustainable systems and competitive production.

The project will contribute to the following Aichi Targets: **Target 1** (awareness of values of biodiversity: **Target 2** (biodiversity values integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes)**: Target 4** (Government, businesses and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits)**: Target 5** (the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced); **Target 7** (areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity): **Target 11** (significant areas of terrestrial and inland waters and coastal and marine areas are conserved effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape): and **Target 14** (ecosystems that provide essential services are restored and safeguarded taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable).

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 project has dedicated knowledge management under The Outcome 4: *Generated knowledge and communication products are available for dissemination at different levels and adaptive management is ensured*, which has been designed to ensure special emphasis is paid to systematically document and synthesizing lessons learnt from the project interventions. An effective M&E system and regular analysis of M&E data will allow the project to learn and practice adaptive management, namely: (i) identify the most effective project strategies; (ii) check project assumptions (hypotheses) and risks; (iii) prepare management response to changing political, economic, and ecological environment; (iv) learn from successful and unsuccessful project experience; (v) incorporate learning in the project planning and adaptive management; and (vi) share experience among GWP, GEF and other projects in Africa and the world. Lessons learned through the project cycle will be reflected in the PIRs to ensure that the project uses the most effective strategies to deliver project Outputs and achieve project Outcomes in the changing environment.

To systemize and share its lessons and knowledge, the project will use different communication means including:

- Documentation and dissemination of case studies, best practices and lessons learned from the project;
- Building capacity for natural capital assessment, integrated land use planning and ecovillage approach;
- Development of guidance notes that addresses current constraints and gaps in community engagement in conservation;
- Technical reports, publications and other knowledge management products (including popular versions for use by local communities in local languages and accessible to women) are documented and disseminated via mass media;
- Workshops to facilitate dissemination of field lessons and help inform policy and practice relevant to conservation and sustainable land management;
- Institutionalization of some of the best practices through the promotion of access to finance for replication and up-scaling, including collaboration with the private and public sector financial institutions;
- Capacity building and technical support for dissemination and upscaling of project best practices to facilitate integrated conservation planning in plantation and smallholder programs;
- Inclusion of public engagement pages on national websites and social media platforms that link to information about the project and its products, including the development of a specific public information sharing platform;
- Preparation of a financial strategy/solutions based on project experiences and best practices for the promotion of the ecovillage approach
- A roadmap for NCA
- Preparation of an Implementer?s Manual and Lessons Learned guide that captures the process of project implementation, and
- End of project national seminar on outcomes of NCA and ecovillage approach.

The budget (and indicative timeline) for project knowledge management activities is summarised below (however, the lessons learning practices are integrated in delivery of each project Output):

KM Activities/Expenses	Timeline	Budget, USD
Development of resource manual to promote awareness and replication	Year 5	30,000
Development of project website	Year 1	18,000
Development of training modules for CSOs to enable uptake	Years 2-3	30,000
Consultant services to enhance awareness and enable gender mainstreaming	Years 1-4	40,000
Preparation KM and communication plan and materials design	Years 1-2	20,000
Annual Technical meetings to promote awareness	Years 1-5	80,000
Publication of the project materials, including lessons learned; print out for the project KM events,	Years 1-5	80,000
Total:		**298,000**

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

?The full M&E Plan for the project is described in Section 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Plan of the Prodoc with further details in Appendixes 3, 5, 6, 9, 13, and 15. A summary of the project M&E budget is provided in the table below.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF, USD	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meetings	Implementing Partner (MEDD)/UNEP/National Coordinator	20,000	0	Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	National Coordinator	0	0	1 month after the project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	PCU and project partners	50,000 (10,000/yr)	0	Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of the project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
ESIA and ESMP development	PCU, National Consultant	40,000	0	Q1 Year 1
Semi-annual Progress/ Operational Reports to UNEP	Project Manager and PCU	0	0	Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF, USD	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Project Steering Committee meetings and Technical Committee meetings	Implementing Partner (MEDD)/PCU	0	0	Twice a year
Reports of PSC meetings	National Coordinator and PMU	0	0	Annually
PIR	National Coordinator and PCU	0	0	Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites, including for monitoring/implementation of ESMP, Risk Register, and stakeholder engagement plan, GRM	PCU	50,000	0	As appropriate
Mid Term Review/Evaluation	UNEP/PCU, Independent evaluator (International)	40,000	0	At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	UNEP/PCU, Independent evaluator (International)	40,000	0	Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Project Final Report	National Coordinator and PCU	0	0	Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	National Coordinator and PCU	0	0	Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	National Consultant/National Coordinator and PCU	10,000	0	Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget:		**250,000**		

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)?

?The project is designed to provide direct socio-economic benefits to at least 120,000 local people (at least 50% women) in the target communities living in the project sites through the greater participation of local communities in natural resources management and improved PA co-management by local people. Specifically, the socio-economic benefits will be delivered through a complex set of activities listed in the table below:

Potential ways to provide socio-economic benefits to target ecovillages and surrounding areas

Investment Type	Potential Activities

Sustainable Agriculture	? Renewal of biomass through recycling to optimize organic matter decomposition and nutrient cycling; ? Maintenance of soil fertility by managing organic matter and improving soil biological activity; ? Minimization of water losses by improving the conservation and regeneration of soils, and water resources, and agrobiodiversity; ? Erosion control measures; ? Genetic diversification of the agroecosystem in time and space at field and landscape level; ? Improving beneficial biological interactions and synergies between components of agricultural biodiversity, thereby promoting ecological processes and services; ? Control of crop enemies (diseases, pests and weeds); ? Improving the agriculture-livestock integration; and ●Restoration of ecosystem services in soils and forests. ●Non-chemical fertilizer usage ●Climate-resilient agricultural crops and practices
Water management	? Protection of sources in the protected area of ??COFAV and watershed areas that is currently being destroyed by deforestation, shifting agriculture and bush fires. This will also require, in particular improving agricultural yield in farmers to prevent intrusion into the forest that is dictated by the need to find fertile land. At the same time as this measure, it was necessary to regulate entry into the protected area and watersheds, such as social fencing of areas being restored, implement measures to prevent run-off, install non-invasive multi-story vegetation to promote infiltration, sign boarding and reduce ingress of contaminants; ? Reduce water losses through the use of more water-efficient irrigation systems, better management of irrigation and maintenance of irrigation facilities, earthen dams to retain excess water and introduce cover crops. ? Improvement of the soil structure by organic amendments such as manure, compost, etc.; tillage according to contour lines on gently sloping land and those that favor infiltration such as minimum tillage or zero tillage; creation of ditches, cords, etc.) along the slopes; cover crops (crop residues, mulching or mulching, etc.); choose a good stocking density for the crop; ? Control of weeds; and ? Installation of windbreaks.
Energy management	? Facilitate access to domestic energy through the dissemination of improved stoves compatible not only with fuelwood but also with charcoal, energy efficient and adapted to the needs of rural communities. ? Promote the use of agricultural waste ? Promote agroforestry
Watersheds, grazing lands and uncultivated lands	? Mulching, earthworks, hedges and canals on uncultivated lands. ? Agroforestry and planting of fruit trees. ? Planting of trees for energy and construction ? Controlled livestock grazing with suitable forage varieties ? Fish farming and rice-fish farming in water bodies ? Reforestation and the presence of vegetation on uncultivated lands ? Infiltration channels protected downstream by grass strips ? Planting of buffer strips on stream banks ? Fallowing with the use of herbaceous grasses that also improve animal feed ●Ponds and ponds located in the watershed as a natural buffer by storing part of the runoff water.

COFAV Protected Area	? Strengthen protection against all forms of external pressure such as overexploitation, land clearing, wildfires ? Contribute to the implementation of the management plan by strengthening the means and capacities of stakeholders. ? Promote a more inclusive approach through the participation of all the villagers living near the COFAV ? Support the engagement of village communities in the protection and conservation of the integrity of COFAV: patrol activities, ecological restoration, ? Improve the value of biodiversity and restore the fragmented landscape ? Strengthen the economic opportunities of the surrounding villagers so that they can have more competitive activities and thus reduce their dependence on natural resources: development of natural resources (tourism, non-wood forest products, rational logging) ? Improve their livelihood activities by improving their production practice so that the latter can be in harmony with the conservation of biodiversity ? Strengthen communication between all stakeholders ? Improvement of knowledge on *Mantella cowanii* (sahona mena) and the characteristic fauna of villages and their habitats ? Participatory ecological monitoring ? Sustainable use of non-timber forest products
Improved livelihood and value addition	? Identification and establishment of suitable value chains to improve economic returns on crop production systems that currently threatened sustainable land management. ? Creating sustainable supply chains (i.e. creating nurseries for medicinal plant or essential oil production); ? Community endeavors in biodiversity-friendly income-generating activities. ? Promote private sector engagement in value chain enterprise development, marketing and business planning

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.

Please refer to the Appendix 17 attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
Appendix 17	CEO Endorsement ESS	
UNEP Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note (ESERN)	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).

	Indicator	Baseline	Mid-term target	End of project target	Source of Verification	Assumptions

Objective: To promote the use of NCA as a tool for Land Use Planning to achieve PA management effectiveness, deployment of good SLM practices and operationalization of Ecovillages in Central Highlands of Madagascar	**Indicator 1: GEF Core Indicator 11:** Number of direct project beneficiaries disaggregated by gender (50% women) based on following: (a) land use planning integrating NCA related to biodiversity and ecosystem services and implementation that benefit population in 9 municipalities (120,000); (b) sustainable resource uses and livelihood development for 9,500 people, and (c) benefit from energy efficient stoves for 50% of households in ecovillages and (d) 3,000 people with access to renewable energy alternatives	Validation of actual number of beneficiaries will be undertaken in Year 1 during project inception period	At least 30,000 direct beneficiaries of which 50% are women	At least 120,000 direct beneficiaries from project activities of which 50% are women	Annual project work plans and budgets; Independent social and gender evaluations Socio-economic surveys M&E reports Inception Report	-Local communities, private sector and regional administration understand need for ecological security and agree to participate in restoration works. - Regional administrations consider it priority to support integrated planning of its landscape for species and ecosystem conservation - Communities willing to use new forms of energy -The cost of new stoves within the reach of communities

	<u>Indicator 2: GEF Core Indicator 1.2:</u> Terrestrial Protected Areas under improved management effectiveness	Currently, parts of COFAV managed by PA authorities with no engagement of communities with baseline METT score of 61	At least 53,092 hectares of COFAV transferred to ecovillages for management, legal agreement signed for co-management and plans for management agreed and developed with ecovillages with 5-point increase in METT score	At least 53,092 hectares of COFAV under improved management effectiveness with 15-point increase from baseline value	GEF METT dashboard and annual reports	-Local communities, private sector and regional governments are willing and recognize the value of conserving forests -PA authorities and Ecovillages are in agreement to support community co-management of forests -Communities are able to derive appropriate economic benefits from forests and watershed protection
	<u>Indicator 3: GEF Core Indicator 4.1:</u> Area of landscape under improved management to benefit biodiversity (and provision of ecosystem services) conservation	Forest, agricultural and other land use practices in production systems in municipalities and districts do not adequately consider biodiversity and ecosystem-friendly practices in their land use policy and practice	The results of analysis of natural capital (Component 1) provide information to enable integration of sustainable land and forest management and biodiversity conservation in land use plans of 9 municipalities and one district.	Biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and sustainable land and water use mainstreamed in participatory land use planning schemes and policy at municipal and district levels covering at least 238,234 hectares of landscapes and under implementation	(i) SLM and SFM plans Annual work plans Project progress reports (ii) Community surveys Areal maps and field reports (iii) Independent evaluations	

	Indicator 4: GEF Core Indicator 4.3: Area of landscape under sustainable land management practices -	Sustainable land and resource management practices and conservation outcomes not integrated into land use plans and being implemented	At least 25,000 hectares of production landscapes under sustainable land management practices in the 9 pilot municipalities with GEF and co-financing biodiversity conservation activities in their land use plans	At least 119,453 hectares of production landscapes under sustainable land management practices in the 9 pilot municipalities with GEF and co-financing	(i) Land use plans (ii) Progress reports	-Municipalities recognize the value of SLM and conservation for economic planning -There is adequate capacity and tools to facilitate land use planning
	Indicator 5: GEF Core Indicator 6: Greenhouse gas emission mitigated (tCO2e) - Under calculation	Limited efforts within high conservation forests to assess carbon values		At least 6,298,884$tCO_2eq.$ mitigated through enhanced protection and avoidance of forest degradation measured over a 20 year period	Annual work plans; Progress reports of SFM and SLM plans;	-PA authority is willing to engage communities in conservation and in SFM actions -Local communities recognize benefits of improving their agricultural, land and forest management practices

Outcome 1: Madagascar development strategic framework integrates new policies, regulatory, and institutional arrangement on NCA and creation of Ecovillages	**Indicator 6:** Improved skill level of institutions responsible for natural capital valuation, as measured by increased scores on the capacity development scorecard	Limited institutional capacity for NCA within institutions with baseline value of 47 points out of maximum score of 69 as measured by capacity developed scorecard	Collective institutional capacity as measured by 5 points increase from baseline value	Collective institutional capacity among government institutions for NCA increased by 10 points from baseline values	Capacity Development scorecards	-Adequate interest and capacity to collaborate across institutions - Government recognizes the value of NCA as means to integrate environmental principles in development operations
	Indicator 7: Natural capital assessment informs validation of ecovillages and investments for conservation and sustainable natural resource use	NCA limited to application for renewable water stocks, forest accounts, mineral accounts, tourism accounts and macroeconomic indicators (natural capital wealth)	NCA assessment developed for 18 ecovillages to identify interventions at each ecovillage	NCA document available for the 18 ecovillages, interventions identified and investment plans under implementation	NCA report; ecovillage plans; project progress reports	

	Indicator: 8 : Regulatory framework supporting the NCA and the creation of ecovillages developed and applied	Currently establishment of ecovillages and sustainable natural resources management decision-making constrained by lack of policy and guiding principles	Analysis of results of NCA on ecovillages demonstrate the economic costs and benefits, and associated trade-offs in terms of natural, social and human capital of the Ecovillage policy, guidelines and regulatory interventions in the target regions.	Regulatory texts governing the assessment of natural capital and the creation of ecovillages developed, popularized and applied	Government records and notices; Project progress reports	
Output 1.1: Technical assistance, training and necessary tools on NCA and its application to policy provided to national and regional experts Output 1.2 Capacity of line ministries (Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Finance) strengthened for integration of NCA, biodiversity conservation in sectoral development strategies and policies including LUP in the Central Highlands Output 1.3. Policy scenario analysis on natural capital assessment of Ecovillages and land-use planning in Central Highlands, based on biophysical modelling and valuation of ecosystem services						
Outcome 2: Alternatives to enhance conservation, effectively managed PA, reduce deforestation and land degradation while enhancing livelihoods of rural communities pilot tested	**Indicator 9:** Number of participatory land use plans based on NCA results, integrating SLM and biodiversity outcomes developed and adopted	Land use and development plans pay limited attention to mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable resource use practices into their planning systems	NCA assessment provide guidance for integration of results into municipal and district plans and planning process initiated following participatory processes	Nine (9) municipal land use schemes (SAC) and one district LUP integrate the results of SLM and biodiversity conservation covering around 238,234 hectares developed and adopted by municipal and district level agencies	Municipal, District development/ LUP plans, Annual reports	-There is political commitment to integrate biodiversity and sustainable resource uses into development plans - Communities see the benefit of integration

	Indicator 10: Number of PA (COFAV) development /co-management plans developed, adopted and implemente d by ecovillages			At least 4 development /co-management plans in PA (COFAV) covering around 53,092 hectares developed, adopted and implemented by ecovillage committees	Co-management development plans Progress reports	in their economic interests - Capacity and tools are readily available to facilitate integration
	Indicator 11: Improved conservation status of key species, including *Mantella cowani*	Currently no baseline values exist for *Mantella cowani* populations in areas to be transferred within COFAV for community co-management	Mutual agreement for protection of *Mantella cowani* signed with relevant ecovillage committees, baseline established in Year 1 with monitoring protocols	*Mantella cowani* population/popul ation densities within co-managed areas of COFAV stable or increasing	Biological survey reports	-Ecovillage committees actively engaged in conservatio n efforts through patrolling, surveillance and monitoring - Communitie s agree to stop habitat destruction activities
Output 2.1 Integrated land use plans are developed using the NCA results from Component 1 and their implementation are piloted trough landscape approach and ecovillage model focusing on SLM and biodiversity conservation activities in 2 regions of the Central Highlands Output 2.2 A PA effectively managed through ecovillage model to conserve habitat of *Mantella cowani* other threatened and endemic species in the Central Highlands Output 2.3 Support provided to ecovillages for community-centered conservation in the Central Highlands through the identified 5 Principles of post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework and taken into consideration the NCA and experiences from other past and ongoing initiatives from Senegal						

Outcome 3: Ecovillages lead to reduced rates of deforestation, conserve habitat, improve landscape productivity and enhance livelihoods	**Indicator 12**: Number of ecovillages actively engaged in community based natural resources management	None in project areas	At least 18 sustainable management plans development and activities initiated	Eighteen ecovillages created with governance structures and actively engaged in adopting sustainable ecovillage management plans	Ecovillage governance reports, community progress reports Agreements of governance arrangements	- Commitment at village level to change and adopt new methods for land and forest use -Training and planning and technical support readily available through NGOs to facilitate community uptake - Communities see long-term benefit in engagement in sustainable practices

	Indicator 13: Diversified livelihood options and increase in incomes for communities from sustainably harvested NTFPs, improved incomes and value addition enterprises including measurable benefits for women	Baselines of average incomes in ecovillages will be assessed in Year 1	At least 5% average increase in income for 20% of participating households based on action plans for sustainable NTFP harvest, livelihoods and improved business models agreed and under implementation initiated (at least 30% beneficiary households must be women-headed).	At least 20% average increase in income for 70% of participating households based on action plans for sustainable NTFP harvest, livelihoods and improved business models agreed and under implementation initiated (at least 30% beneficiary households must be women-headed)	Work plans, evaluation reports, socio-economic survey reports, independent evaluations	- Availability of resources and demand for new and improved livelihood and value added products - Technical support available to facilitate livelihood program uptake
Output 3.1: Criteria, technical guidelines, approaches and local processes for the creation of ecovillages are defined based on experiences elsewhere and internalized by key stakeholders in the two Central Highland Regions Output 3.2 At least 18 Ecovillages are created, and their governance structures developed in Central Highlands, taken into consideration the global experience on Ecovillages including from Senegal; the NCA reports, Land Use Plans, SLM and biodiversity conservation priorities actions Output 3.3. A network of 18 ecovillages in Central Highlands is used and monitored as local investment model for reducing deforestation, conservation *Mantella cowani* habitat, improving landscape productivity and sustaining livelihoods						

Outcome 4: Generated knowledge and communication products are available for dissemination at different levels and adaptive management ensured	**Indicator 14:** Change in level of awareness on conservation, SLM and threatened species conservation in the landscapes as indicated by Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) survey.	Baseline surveys completed in Year 1 to assess awareness levels. Currently no coordinated outreach on conservation and sustainable resource uses.	At least 20% (of which at least 30% women) of sampled community members, government and sector agency staff, private sector and other stakeholders aware of potential conservation threats and adverse impacts of unsustainable forest and land developments and behavior	At least 70% (of which at least 30% women) of sampled community members, government and sector agency staff, private sector and other stakeholders aware of potential conservation threats and adverse impacts of unsustainable forest and land developments and behavior	KAP survey reports	- Gender and Social Mainstreaming Plan followed and benefits distributed equitably. - Stakeholders willing to actively participate in the review process. - - Project management will be able to identify, document and disseminate the best practices -Mid Term Review and End of Project Evaluation of the project will also contribute to identifying the best practices -Best practices on sustainable resource management readily available to resource users
	Indicator 15: Number of best practices documented and disseminated as part of replication strategy	Limited number of good practices in conservation, SFM and SLM codified, disseminated and applied in project areas.	Best practice topics identified, data and monitoring data collection in progress and at least 5 best practices developed	Documentation and Dissemination of at least 25 project best practices and lessons learned.	Best practice reports, Broadcast Event Reports	

Output 4.1. Communication and knowledge products are generated by the project and disseminated at local, national and regional levels to create awareness for NCA, Biodiversity conservation and SLM
Output 4.2. Madagascar key actors including those involved in environment accountability and natural resources management are actively engaged
Output 4.3. As result of experience gained, regulatory framework including governance structures, sensitization and awareness raising tools on ecovillages are developed and training modules developed and administered on Ecovillages concept, approaches and potential for generating multiple environmental benefits
Output 4.4. Project implementation is adequately monitored, and relevant evaluations are conducted.

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).

Comment	Response	Edit References
STAP		

Overall Assessment and Ratings STAP welcomes the proposal to establish policy and practice around a significant set of ecovillages in the biodiversity-rich Central Highlands of Madagascar, and to do so learning from previous ecovillage projects. STAP applauds the provision of a theory of change (ToC) at this stage, the description of which helps outline the proposed project logic quickly, with a clear identification of drivers and barriers. It would help to make the relationship between different component actions and intended long-term outcomes clearer by adding shorter term, intermediate outcomes (the arrows are difficult to interpret in this regard). In particular it is important to consider whether the components are necessary AND sufficient to achieve the outcomes, and whether there can be confidence in the durability of the outcomes once the GEF investment finishes. Hence, during project design, STAP particularly urges proponents to (i) consider whether the project title and objective really reflect the intentions of the project as described; (ii) enhance the ToC by laying out the component activity-to-outcome logic more clearly, working back from the outcomes to ensure the components are not only necessary but also sufficient to achieve the 2 outcomes, and looking closely at the assumptions that are built into the project design; (iii) consider developing a separate ToC aimed specifically at scaling and durability; (iv) ensure ToC assumptions are being formally monitored and evaluated over time to allow learning about these; and (v) pay more attention to issues that might undermine project durability, including climate change and the potential for population increase to overwhelm improved management in this region or cause damage to leak from here to surrounding areas. Below, STAP describes further its recommendations on how to strengthen the project design.	Thank you for the extensive comments which were very useful as we started to develop the project and ensure that these comments were adequately addressed. Responses to the individual comments are reflected in sections below.	NA

Project Objective: The project objective (and title) as stated seems different to the actual project as described (and the outcomes listed in the ToC logic) ? the project description emphasizes establishing a set of ecovillages with improved biodiversity and land degradation GEB outcomes; NCA and land planning are simply tools to support policy towards this. The objective suggests promoting the use of NCA is the project end objective. I presume this is not intended and all our following comments are based on this assumption. If the objective truly were only to promote the use of NCA, then the project lacks a ToC and M&E to determine whether this is successful.	Thank you for the comment. The project objectives is ? to promote the use of National Capital Accounting (NCA) as a tool for Land Use Planning to achieve Protected Area (PA) management effectiveness, deployment of good Sustainable Land Management (SLM) practices and operationalization of Ecovillages in Central Highlands of Madagascar? The objective states clearly that NCA is being used as a tool and is therefore not the end project. The end project is achievement of PA management and SLM. This is to be achieved through the participation of communities via the ecovillage concept. This is now reflected in the new ToC that shows the relationship between NCA, LUP and ecovillages and the goal of sustainable landscape conservation, sustainable productivity and livelihood improvements	Refer Figure 2 TOC UNEP Project Document (Page 46)

Project Components Subject to the comment above, these appear necessary to the objectives; it is less clear whether they are strictly sufficient to achieving them, as discussed below (ToC).	This has been extensively discussed at PPG stage, including with national and regional stakeholders, NGOs and local communities and the outputs and activities tailored to meet realistic targets	NA
Outcomes: Are the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits likely to be generated? Plausible; attention needs to be paid to ensuring they are durable.	The global benefits to be achieved have been defined in consultation with local communities and regional institutions based on the capacity and institutional constraints that operate at the site levels.	Refer Table 12 in UNDP Project Document and Section 5 of GEF CEO ER (Pages 27-29)

Part II Project Justification: We applaud the presentation of a ToC description and diagram, with a good analysis of drivers and barriers, but note that the diagram is presented in an obscure form that suggests a true ToC process of working back from objectives to long-term outcomes to short-term outcomes to activities/components has not necessarily been followed (e.g. see STAP ToC Primer https://www.stapgef.org/theory-change-primer). It would help to do this to provide more insights into whether the components are truly sufficient to achieve the outcomes.	The TOC has been redeveloped (and has to be considered together with a new Problem Analysis diagram). The latter provides an analysis of the barriers and causes of loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services and the long-term impacts, while the ToC works from the challenges and the interventions that will contribute to medium and long-term outcomes of the interventions and the global impacts (biodiversity, ecosystem services etc.) and socio-economic benefits that would help sustain the global environment benefits through NCA and LUP tools and engagement of ecovillages as means to achieve these outcomes	Refer Figures 1 (Problem Analysis) and 2 (ToC) of UNEP Project Documents ? Pages 18 and 46
I Project description Is the problem statement well-defined? Yes, including noting climate change, dependence on biomass for energy (80%), population growth (2.5%), poverty, especially in this rural region dependent on rain-fed agriculture.	No comment	NA

Are the barriers and threats well described, and substantiated by data and references? The ToC useful classifies 3 groups of (7) drivers, with ?Causes? (pressures/threats) identified as illegal mining, and unsustainable ag and pastoral practices, noting also deforestation and erosion. The description then identifies barriers as lack of national capacity to mainstream NCA, limited local capacity and resources to develop local plans and do management, and inadequate financing to support biodiversity-friendly livelihoods. This is plausible, though it would be good to have a more reflective analysis of whether there are other barriers, such as population pressures, infrastructure, access to ?modern energy?, failures of local governance, etc: some of these appear later in the eco-village descriptions.	Thank you for the comment The revised barriers/problem analysis takes into consideration issues such as lack of sustainable alternatives to current practices (including household energy needs in terms of fire wood, etc.) and outputs include dealing with energy needs. In addition, local governance is addressed in terms of community institutions and capacity for governance in PAs, community collective decision-making, etc.) and these are addressed in project outputs. Infrastructure is not a major issue in the project sites, because of its remoteness	Refer Barrier section and Figure 1 UNEP Project Document (Pages 14 ? 18)
For multiple focal area projects: does the problem statement and analysis identify the drivers of environmental degradation which need to be addressed through multiple focal areas; and is the objective well-defined, and can it only be supported by integrating two, or more focal areas objectives or programs? Yes clear links between biodiversity and land degradation The objective as interpreted ? establishing ecovillages to improve environmental and socio-economic outcomes-certainly requires much integration	Agreed, clear links exists between BD and LD and socio-economic outcomes, which is the focus of the project through the NCA, LUP integration and translation to community actions linked to achievement of conservation/SLM and socio-economic benefits	NA

2. Baseline scenario Is the baseline identified clearly? Yes. The baseline section moves into describing the eco-village concept, drawing on experiences elsewhere, especially Senegal; given the latter is now complete as a project, learning about the durability of the outcomes needs to be accessed ? for example, have the eco-villages continued to operate as such, and what enabled this?	See response regarding ?lessons? below.	
Does it provide a feasible basis for quantifying the project?s benefits There is little quantification in the baseline section (which mostly focuses on the ecovillage concept and other projects), but there is relevant material earlier in the proposal. It would be good to collate this succinctly here.	Thank you for the comment. This is better reflected now	Refer baseline section of UNEP Project Document
Are the multiple baseline analyses presented (supported by data and references), and the multiple benefits specified, including the proposed indicators; Probably though not in this section	This is now presented in baseline section	Refer Section 3 of UNEP Project Document (Pages 26-30)
Are the lessons learned from similar or related past GEF and non-GEF interventions described; Useful projects identified, but more should be made explicit about lessons on scaling and durability, as well as whether the proposed Components are sufficient to achieve the changes intended	Lessons learned based on previous NCA and ecovillage work (including lessons from the SENEGAL GEF ecovillages project) is now captured and we feel that there is already significant activities that are aimed at achieving changes. However, even so, adaptive management will be essential part of implementation to ensure durability	Refer Section 3 (pages 32-33)

How did these lessons inform the design of this project? Good potential, but more needed.	Yes, this is described as mentioned in comment above	See responses below
3) the proposed alternative scenario It is great that the proposal provides a ToC explicitly; the diagram is hard to interpret and does not really spell out the disaggregated logic for why each component will deliver short term outcomes that will add up to the long-term outcomes (which are well-defined). This makes it hard to see whether the intervention (plus external activities) really add up to a sufficient set of actions to deliver the outcomes. In essence, the proposal is that better policy and national and regional planning (based on NCA) coupled with options for local ecovillage governance with co-designed local planning and credible/profitable management options will support the establishment of a set of exemplar eco-villages, which will reduce land degradation and conserve biodiversity. This is plausible, though readers might want to know whether there are any cultural or power distribution barriers to achieving this, and whether local people have been asked whether they are willing to collaborate in the eco-village vision, and if so, what level of resources or livelihood assurance would they need to sign on? In this sense it is excellent to have a ToC so as to be able to ask these questions of the lo	We believe these are reasonably captured in the revised TOC. Despite, Covid extensive consultations were undertaken with communities regarding the proposed project and acceptance of community willingness to participate was considered. The project is premised on the concept that communities will cooperate if they see tangible economic and social benefits that accrue to them and this is what the project is seeking to demonstrate. We do not have all the answers, but based on successes elsewhere, we feel that planning and management has to be adaptive as well as provide decision-making to lie with local communities, rather than be imposed from above.	Refer Figure 2 of UNEP Project Document (page 46) for new ToC

Are the mechanisms of change plausible, and is there a well-informed identification of the underlying assumptions?	Assumptions to TOC is now provided	Refer UNDP project document pages 46-47
Broadly, though the ToC lacks a critical appraisal of underlying or implicit assumptions in the logic. STAP recommends that the guidelines for ToCs in STAP?s Primer are followed more directly to document these assumptions, and to re-assess ?necessary and sufficient?. Components 2 and 3 have a good emphasis on co-design of plans and actions with potential eco-villagers themselves, to generate local ownership through local governance; it is not clear how the project will ensure that personnel will really appreciate the need for genuine co-design, not superficial ?consultation?; nor whether genuine handing over of power to locals fits with local bureaucratic approaches.	Extensive consultation in ecovillage sites have already been conducted during the PPG stage (two extensive visits were done by the PPG team) and the inception workshop was also conducted in the project sites. This information was useful in generating activities and targets. As an additional measures ANAE and GRET (NGOs) that have extensive experience working with local communities in the project area will be directly involved in overseeing the implementation of Components 2 and 3 and support efforts to build local ownership, strengthen governance and decision-making modalities and work with communities to enable transformational changes	

Is there a recognition of what adaptations may be required during project implementation to respond to changing conditions in pursuit of the targeted outcomes? This would be greatly enhanced by monitoring and evaluation aimed explicitly at testing the assumptions in the ToC (as amended, see above), in order that implementation flexibility can learn as the project proceeds. STAP?s ToC Primer discusses this process of adaptive MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning) In addition, Component 4, which deals with knowledge management, should be monitoring and marketing the local benefits in ways that resonate with local participants, to develop and maintain their support (or change the project if these are not being generated). Demonstrating value to participants is a key element of the ToC (also needed for scaling) that might be elaborated.	Thank you for this comment. This is indeed very important that there should be significant implementation flexibility and for this reason, the project envisages using the services of ANEA and GRET (NGOs with significant involvement in the area) to promote a very participatory approach to project planning and implementation at the community levels. Agreed, that monitoring, value addition and marketing are key necessities for ensuring the active participation of local communities, along with strengthening community governance structures, capacity and decision-making attributes that are central to the project	Refer Component 3 UNEP Project Document

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning GEF trust fund: will the proposed incremental activities lead to the delivery of global environmental benefits? Plausible. However, after providing a useful outline of drivers like climate change and population increases earlier, whether these may undermine the durability of GEBs achieved is not addressed. This should be rectified in further design ? might climate change destroy improvements that the ecovillages introduce? Might population increase overwhelm improved management in this region or cause damage to leak from here to surround areas? Can policy help avoid these?	Given that these are remote areas of the village, population growth has been taking place, but not to an alarming rate, but climate change can be a problem (particularly drought and factors associated with it) that will be central to identifying investment that can enhance capacity of communities to cope, enhancing diversity of productive assets and means, strengthening information availability and extension services and overall improving the environmental conditions in the project area as a means to negate the effects of climate change	NA
6) global environmental benefits Are the benefits truly global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits, and are they measurable? Yes, and nicely balanced with intended local benefits that are necessary to maintain local support	No additional comment	NA

Is the scale of projected benefits both plausible and compelling in relation to the proposed investment? Yes, subject to scaling up beyond the targeted number of ecovillages eventually	The intent of the project is to provide lessons, capacity development and extension for scaling up, which will be accompanied by preparation of a roadmap for NCA promotion in Madagascar, training of key agency staff in NCA and resource accounting and integration of NCA into municipal LUPs. In addition, the project intends developing a lessons learned manual that would facilitate scaling up of ecovillage approaches	Refer Component 4 of UNEP Project Document
Are indicators, or methodologies, provided to demonstrate how the global environmental benefits/adaptation benefits will be measured and monitored during project implementation? MEL needs much more development ? what might be measured is indicated, but how it will be tracked is not made clear.	How indicators are to be tracked are reflected in the monitoring plan	Refer Appendix 3 of UNEP Project Document

What activities will be implemented to increase the project?s resilience to climate change? These are only outlined in the vaguest of terms but constitute a real risk to outcome durability; will NCA take account of climate change? Will recommended changes in management in ecovillages be screened for robustness to climate change (and other major driver trends) in collaboration with villagers? Will e.g. climate ready ag approaches be considered; etc?	A climate risk analysis has been done for the project that looks at various measures that might be instituted to manage these risks, including soil and land management, agricultural practices and crop/seed selection, agro-forestry, climate smart agricultural practices, plant and animal disease control etc. These measures will be instituted in selection and management of the agricultural, forestry and livelihood practices at the ecovillage level	Refer Appendix 24 of UNEP Project Document

7) innovative, sustainability and potential for scaling-up Is the project innovative, for example, in its design, method of financing, technology, business model, policy, monitoring and evaluation, or learning? Given it is building on other projects the concept of NCA and ecovillages themselves are not especially innovative; but the project does bring a set of elements together innovatively ? seeking to establish a critical mass of ecovillages, backing their activities with policy change, and seeking private sector partnerships. However, greater attention should be paid to durability and scaling in the ToC process (see below), and to whether there are other barriers such as cultural norms, that might impede scaling.	Thank you for the comments. While NCA, LUP and ecovillages are now new concepts in Madagascar, the integrated approach of the project, in particular the application of NCA that factor the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services (and economic losses for unsustainable developments) to inform decisions regarding land use planning and subsequent decisions on ecovillages (locations, resource use, SLM, SFM etc) is in itself a new innovation in the country. Transferring responsibility for co-management of PAs to communities is also relatively new to Madagascar.	Refer Section 3/7 of UNEP Project Document (Pages76-77) and GEF CEOER (pages 29-30)

Is there a clearly-articulated vision of how the innovation will be scaled-up, for example, over time, across geographies, among institutional actors? Long-term this project will only have a small impact on GEBs unless it is both durable and scaled; the current section on scaling is very thin and wishful, based on a dissemination push model. STAP strongly recommends that more attention be paid to potential means of scaling now (various other mechanisms could be posited, some of which may benefit from preparatory actions during the initial project); ideally STAP suggests a separate ToC be developed for this possible eventual phase, so that the ToC for this project can be informed by what might be needed to make scaling more feasible later. (STAP?s guide on Durability and its ToC Primer provide more advice on these issues.)	Thank you for the comment. This is agreed upon. The intent of the project is to test an integrated approach to address land degradation and biodiversity loss, through an innovative integrated multidisciplinary approach that brings in natural resources valuation as a means to create awareness, land use planning and political and community support as a means for transformational change on how people value and use natural resources. However, since this a fairly new concept in the Madagascar context, the scaling up will be determined by what works and what does not. The intent is therefore not to prejudge at this stage what factors or incentives will drive transformational change, but to use the project as means to assess and test a number of options. We therefore feel that the best time to develop a scaling up TOC would be around the mid-term stage of the project when the project planners can make informed judgement (based on field experiences) on critical pathways that can better lead to transformational change	NA

Will incremental adaptation be required, or more fundamental transformational change to achieve long term sustainability? With scaling, transformation impact is possible, but attention is needed to how this might occur. In particular, at present p.27 indicates that the project depends on political and financial commitment of the Govt of Madagascar ? this does not sound like an assurance of durability. The intention to seek sustainable finance mentioned here is only an aspiration not a plan as expressed so far. These issues must be addressed now even if they are pursued later, else the initial investment may be for nought. In particular lessons should be sought from the other examples of ecovillages round the world.	Thank you for the comment. It is agreed that political and financial commitment of the Govt of Madagascar alone, are not enough for transformation change, although it is important. The intent is to: (i) seek through the NCA and LUP work (complemented by the investments on-the-ground) to be able to demonstrate the economic benefits (particularly to communities and regional governments) of transformation from existing unsustainable and more destructive activities to sustainable and more environmental productive activities; (ii) seek options for sustainable financial solutions (beyond government expenditure) for resource management and (iii) create economic opportunities for local communities through value addition, livelihood diversification and access to niche markets. These will be pursued under the project	NA

2. Stakeholders. Have all the key relevant stakeholders been identified to cover the complexity of the problem, and project implementation barriers? Acknowledging constraints from COVID, a range of stakeholders have been engaged; however, STAP would seek assurance that significant discussion have been held on the ground with potential villagers to ensure they are supportive of the idea of ecovillages. In addition, the intention to engage the private sector seems poorly detailed to date and should be further elaborated.	This is discussed in earlier responses that extensive consultation was undertaken at PPG stage and is documented. The involvement of NGOs (ANAE and GRET) in carrying out activities at ecovillage level is intended on building on the extensive experience and involved of these two groups in the region so that communities would be more involved. Private sector presence is limited in these remote regions, but the intent is to involve small scale local business partners to support value chain development, business planning, marketing and technical support	Refer Table 3 of UNEP Project Document (Pages 23-27) and Appendices 20 and 21
3. Gender Equality and Women?s Empowerment. Have gender differentiated risks and opportunities been identified, and were preliminary response measures described that would address these differences? Intentions seem good. An early gender analysis to ensure that any barriers related to cultural norms can be managed would be important. An analysis of this is proposed, and should be progressed very early.	Thank you for the comments A gender analysis and gender action plan was undertaken during the PPG stage that include clear actions to manage gender related risks and ensure active participation and benefit sharing with women	Refer Appendix 19 of UNEP Project Document

5. Risks. Are the identified risks valid and comprehensive? Are the risks specifically for things outside the project?s control? Are there social and environmental risks which could affect the project? Overall the risks seem reasonably comprehensive, except that, given project durability ?depends? on continued government financing currently, the risk of an economic downturn is not handled and it would not seem to be ?low?. In addition, the treatment of climate risks in the PIF is simplistic (we did not have access to any separate Climate Risk assessment); it would help to have an open appraisal of whether the ecovillage approach is even the right solution in the face of climate change; and if it is, what processes will be put in place to ensure that villagers are not encouraged to adopt practices or livelihoods that subsequently become maladaptive due to climate change (or indeed any other trends in drivers, e.g. population).	Thank you for the comment The risks have been further elaborated, along with risk management and mitigation actions. In addition, there are specific discussions on climate, covid and gender analysis and management	Refer UNDP Project Document Table 11 (pages 69-72) and Appendices 17, 23 and 24
6. Coordination Are the project proponents tapping into relevant knowledge and learning generated by other projects, including GEF projects? Seems so	No comment	NA
Is there adequate recognition of previous projects and the learning derived from them? Yes, but learning about whether ecovillages endured after project funding ceased are not mentioned and should be sought out.	Thank you for the comment. The KM output seems to ensure that learning from the project is captured, documented and disseminated with the intent of replication	Refer UNDP Project Document Component 4 Pages 64-67

8. Knowledge management. What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience? These plans are not clear, and dominated by pushing out information ? ?ensure knowledge is shared... promoting its scaling out?. STAP would suggest that a scaling ToC would include more active engagement of other regions in visits to/observing the successes here, to develop champions for scaling during the course of this project, etc. Tracking and demonstrating the livelihood benefits and the success of other incentives would be other examples of explicit actions more likely to create fertile ground for scaling out. Council Comments from Germany	This is now covered in the KM section that identifies the different means to document, disseminate and share information, including KM products, websites, study and exchange visits, a manual of best practices, regular dissemination events etc.	Same as above

Revise the project component structure and clearly assure that the different components that build on each other are consistent, e.g. how will the results of the NCA process feed into land use plans, at which level are the proposed plans, how are ecovillages delineated by communal level and/or ?	At the PPG stage, extensive consultations were held with a range of stakeholders, national and regional government agencies, NGOs, local communities and other stakeholders to ensure thar project activities are realistic, acceptable to all stakeholders and achievable. The NCA activities will focus on the ecovillages in that it would provide guidance for validation of ecovillages, defining critical natural resources that need interventions, the types of interventions and targets to be achieved. Decision-making will be entrusted to the communities, including co-management arrangements for management of the PA, defining watershed conservation practices and SLM and SFM, agroecology and livelihood activities. The process of community decision-making and planning will be supported by two NGOs (ANAE and GRET) that have experience working with communities in the two project regions with the intent of ensuring that decisions on investments, management	This is explained in Sections 3 and 4 of the UNEP Project Document

Elaborate on defined indicators and re-consider feasibility of change that can be achieved within the sphere and timeframe of this project, taking into account the high ratio of co-financing using major parts of a GCF funded project (COFAV NPA). Even following a theory of change logic, defining indicators that correspond to the level of either component, outcome and/or output of the project, seems to be useful to monitor and achieve impact indicators.	There is no GCF co-financing for COFAV. Targets for key indicators have been defined based on realistic estimates following consultation with relevant stakeholders and are reflected in the RFA	Refer Appendix 3 of UNDP Project Documents
Elaborate and reconsider the taken approach in relation to the objective of sustainable development: Focusing on conservation within the ecovillage component seems a very conservative approach, as the aspect of sustainable development seems to be neglected and contradictory to the very value of the ecovillage concept. To confirm the cross-sectoral aspect advocated, the governance structure at municipal level through the Municipal Committee for Spatial Planning should be enhanced so as not to duplicate existing structures and to experiment with other governance models. To bring a land use planning/landscape approach in line with the evaluation of the natural capital, re-considering the chosen area of intervention in relation to large catchment areas using FLR seems appropriate.	The focus on ecovillages is on sustainable development (SLM, agroecology, livelihoods, enterprises etc.) through an ecologically friendly approach. Even conservation focus with the COFAV PA is focused on sustainable alternatives to current destructive uses rather than just conservation, because of the realization that conservation is not possible without a commensurate increase in community wellbeing and economic progress	Refer Section 3 and 4 of UNEP Project Document
Council Comment from France		

joint project (called TOTEM) has been presented to the FFEM by the French NGO, GRET. The FFEM Scientific and Technical Committee and Steering Committee have several question on the financing plan of the hydropower infrastructure. According to the FFEM, this infrastructure is not the innovative part of the project. The FFEM is a lot more interested in the innovative community governance, based on the ?commons? approach, for this infrastructure and the energy transition in general in the area. However, this part is obviously directly related to the hydropower plant. In this context, the FFEM could envisage to finance a minor part of the hydropower alongside robust co-financiers. The GRET mentioned that the GEF would co-finance the hydropower infrastructure. As in the PIF, the FFEM is identified as financing the hydropower plant, I would like to check with you if the GEF is considering financing a part of the hydropower?	The project will not finance major infrastructure works (these are not eligible for GEF financing) rather the aim of the project is to demonstrate sustainable land and water conservation activities, agroecology, SLM, SFM etc. This will be done through the ecovillage approach that entails transformation of villages to ecovillages through improved governance, capacity building and engagement of communities.	NA

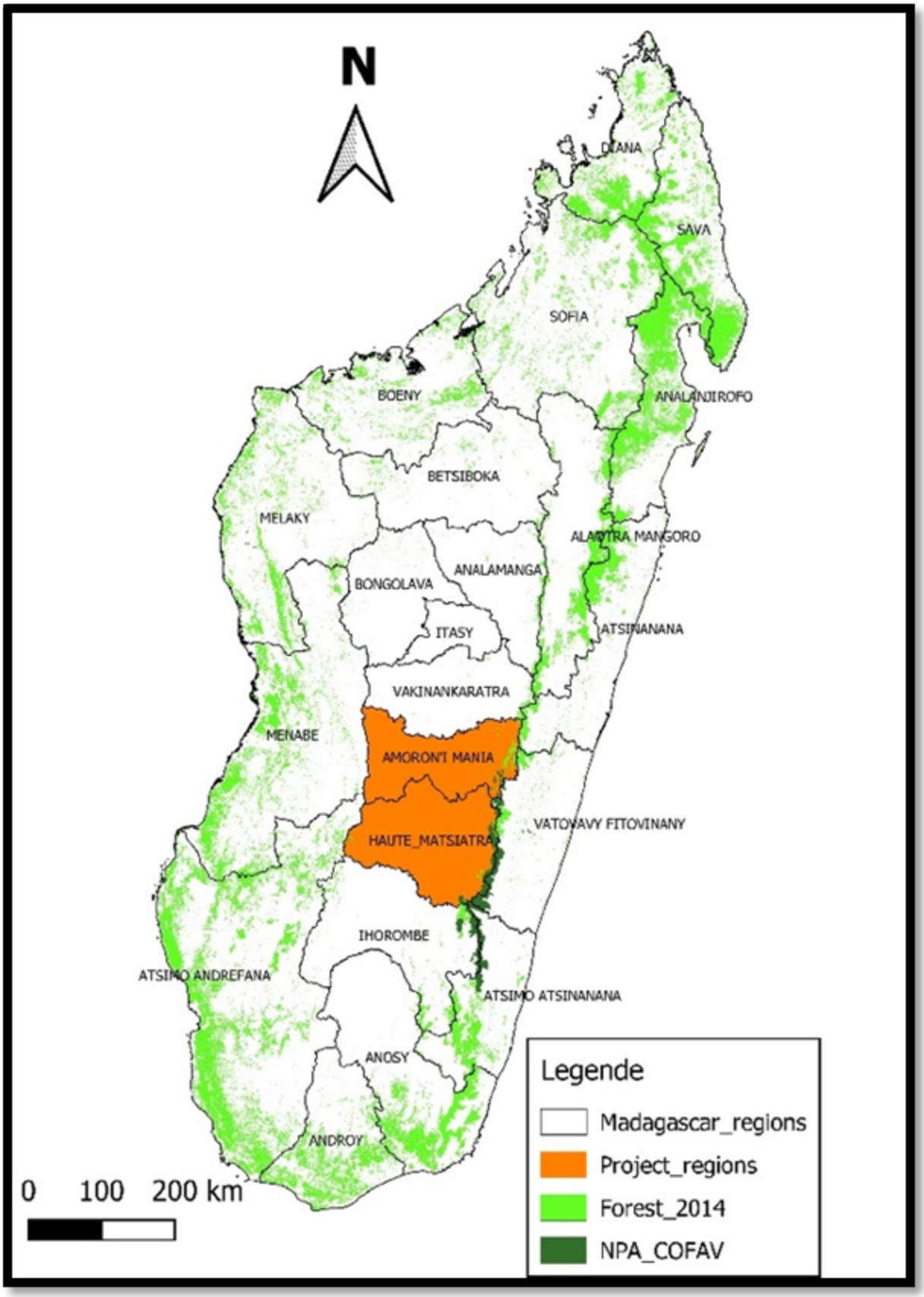
ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Project Preparation Activities Implemented	*GEF Amount (US$)*			
	Budgeted amount	*Revised Budgeted amount*	*Amount spent to date*	*Amount committed*
International Consultants	35,350	35,350	31,850	3,500
Local Consultants	36,000	36,000	30,583	5,417
Domestic Travel to field sites	7,000	8,396	8,396	0
International Travel[1]	5,000	0	0	0
Workshops and Meetings	11,650	15,354	15,304	50
Reporting and Documentation	5,000	4,300	4,200	100
Bank charges	0	600	397	203
Total	**100,000**	**100,000**	**90,730**	**9,270**

[1] International travel was originally costed for travel of international PPG Team Leader (which is normal practice for the PPG). However, due to Covid situation the International PPG Team Leader was unable to travel to Madagascar and this amount was excluded from the updated table.

ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.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ATSIMO ATSINANANA
ANOSY
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Legende
Madagascar_regions
Project_regions
Forest_2014
NPA_COFAV

Location of Project Regions

Coordinates: Amoron?i Mania ? Latitude 20° 27? 32.86? and Longitude 46° 43? 35.011?

Haute Matsiatra ? Latitute 21° 28? 8.63? and Longitude 46° 27? 58.858?

ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

ANNEX F-1 - RECONCILIATION BETWEEN GEF ACTIVITY BASED BUDGET AND UNEP BUDGET LINE (GEF FUNDS ONLY US$)

Project title: Evaluation of Natural Capital to Support Land Use Planning, Improved management effectiveness of Terrestrial protected Areas, deployment of SLM practices
Project number: GEF ID 10389
Project executin Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD)
Project implementation period:
From: 2022
To: 2027

UNEP Budget Line			Expenditure by project component/activity (provide description) Add additional components/activities as required							*Insert actual year Add additional years as required Expenditure by calendar year					
			Comp. 1	Comp. 2	Comp. 3	Com 4	PMC	M&E	budget	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Tot
10	PERSONNEL COMPONENT														
	1100	**Project personnel**													
	1101	Project/National Coordinator	10,000	16,000	16,000	5,000	24,250		71,250	14,250	14,250	14,250	14,250	14,250	
	1102	Financial Assistant					56,250		56,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	
	1103	Field/Regional Coordinators (Co-financing)							-						
	1104	Communication and M&E manager (Co-financing)							-						
	1199	**Sub-total**	10,000	16,000	16,000	5,000	80,500		127,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	25,500	1
	1200	Consultants													
	1201	International Consultant to deliver training on NCA and accounting (Output 1.1) UNEP ESE Unit	40,000	-	-		-	-	40,000	30,000	10,000.00	-	-	-	
	1202	International Consultant to review and guide study design and application of reginal NCA valuation (Output 1.3) UNEP ESE Unit	60,000	-	-		-	-	60,000	30,000	30,000.00	-	-	-	
	1203	International Consultant to provide guidance on development of NCA roadmap (Output 1.2) UNEP ESE Unit	30,000	-	-		-	-	30,000	20,000	10,000.00	-	-	-	
	1204	National Consultant to faciliate development of NCA roadmap (Output 1.2)	40,000	-	-		-	-	40,000		40,000.00		-	-	
	1205	National consultants to faciliate land use planning at municipal levels (9 municipalities(Outout 2.1)		60,000					60,000		40,000.00	20,000.00			
	1206	National Consultant to undertake feasibility assessment of financial options for ecovillages (Output 2.2)		15,000	-		-	-	15,000			15,000.00	-	-	
	1207	National Consultant to undertake assessment of legal options of ecovillages (Output 3.1)		15,000	6,000		-	-	21,000			21,000.00	-	-	
	1208	National Consultant to develop participatory monitoring framework for ecovillages (Output 3.3)		15,000					15,000			15,000.00			
	1209	Documention of lessons and best practices			60,000				60,000			20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	
	1210	National Consultant to develop MEDD resource manual on planning and management of ecovillage and co-management (Output 4.1)				30,000			30,000				30,000.00		
	1211	National Consultant to develop project website (Output 4.3)				18,000			18,000	18,000					
	1212	National Consultant to develop training modules for CSOs to scale up ecovillages (Output 4.3)				30,000			30,000			10,000.00	20,000.00		
	1213	National consultant to undertake preparation of ESMP						40,000	40,000		40,000.00				
	1214	National Consultant to support gender mainstreaming (Output 4.1)	-	-		40,000	-		40,000	30,000	10,000.00			-	
	1299	**Sub-total**	170,000	105,000	66,000	118,000	-	40,000	499,000	128,000	180,000	101,000	70,000	20,000	4
	1300	Administrative Support	-	-	-				-						
	1301	Administrative Support	-	-	-				-						
	1399	**Sub-total**	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	1600	Travel on official business							-						
	1601	Travel expenses for the PMU to monitor PRF and GEF indicators (M&E)	-				-	50,000	50,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	
	1602	Travel expenses for the PMU to monitor ESMP, stakeholder involvement plan, Gender Mainstreaming Strategy, and GRM implementation (M&E)	-				-	50,000	50,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	
	1603	travel costs associated for overseeing progress in LUPs and ecovillages		10,000	10,000		50,000		70,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	
	1699	**Sub-total**	-	10,000	10,000	-	50,000	100,000	170,000	25,000	35,000	35,000	45,000	30,000	1
1999	**Component total**		180,000	131,000	92,000	123,000	130,500	140,000	796,500	178,500	240,500	161,500	140,500	75,500	7
20	SUB-CONTRACT COMPONENT														
	2100	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for cooperating agencies)													
	2101	Sub-contract grants with ecovillages committees for co-management interventions in COFAV, under the supervision of DREDD (Output 2.2)	-	500,000	-		-		500,000	20,000	110,000	160,000	120,000	90,000	5
	2102	Sub-contract grants to ecovillages for SLM, SFM, livelihoods, energy alternatives, under ANAE and GRET supervision (Output 3.3)	-	309,425	1,279,000		-		1,588,425	119,210	350,000	450,000	500,000	169,215	1,5
	2103	Community SMART patrols service agreements (Output 2.2)		140,000					140,000			50,000	40,000	30,000	20,000	1
	2103		-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2199	**Sub-total**	-	949,425	1,279,000		-		2,228,425	139,210	510,000	650,000	650,000	279,215	2,2
	2200														
	2201	Sub-contracts (MOUs/LOAs for supporting organizations)	90,000		-		-	-	90,000	5,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	10,000	
	2202	Contract with UNEP ESE Unit for data analysis (Output 1.1), capacity strengthening (Output 1.2), NCA regional valuations (Output 1.3)	70,000	-	-		-	-	70,000	30,000	40,000	-	-	-	
	2203	Contract with UNEP ESE Unit on training for using tools for NCA and accounting stakeholders - ARIES for SEEA (Output 1.1)	80,000	-	-		-	-	80,000	50,000	30,000		-		
	2204	Contract with national research institution to scope, develop data and undertake valuation studies and scenario analysis, publication and dissemination of results (Output 1.3)	-	60,000	-		-	-	60,000	20,000	20,000	20,000		-	
	2205	Contract on national firm/institute for multidisciplinary assessment of state of natural resources in 9 municiplaities, including assessment of ecosystem services provided by COFAV and watersheds to faciliate integration into LUPs (Output 2.1)	80,000	-	-		-	-	80,000	30,000	50,000			-	
	2206	Contract for capacity needs assessment for NCA integration into LUPs and develoopment of training kits (Output 2.1)	-	40,000	-		-	-	40,000		30,000	10,000		-	
	2207	Contract to assess dependencies of communities on COFAV to faciliate defining alternatives to unsustainable practices (Output 2.2)	-	40,000	-		-	-	40,000	-	20,000	20,000			
	2208	Contract with ANAE/GRET to develop co-management plans and regulations for transfer of COFAV to ecovillages (Output 2.3)	-	60,000	40,000		-	-	100,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	1
	2209	Contract for mapping ecovillage lands to identify best options for developing alternative sustainable land, forest and livelihood practices (Output 2.3 and 3.1)		60,000					60,000		20,000	40,000			
	2210	Contract(s) to provide technical support for promotion of SLM, SFM, livehoods in COFAV co-management plans(Output 2.3)		60,000					60,000		10,000	20,000	30,000		
	2211	Technical support from DREDD for supervsiion of land and forest restoration, bioenergy etc. (Output 2.3)		35,000	50,000				85,000	15,000	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	
	2212	Facilitation support to mobilize ecovillage communities (output 3.1)			50,000				50,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	5,000	
	2213	Assessment of integration of ecovillages into municipal planning (Output 3.2)			48,000				48,000		10,000	15,000	15,000	8,000	
	2214	Facilitation support to define sustainable alternative innovations in SLM, SFM, enterprise development, livelihoods etc. for ecovillages (Output 3.2)			70,000				70,000	10,000	15,000	25,000	20,000		
	2215	Technical and extension support to ecovillages for alternative SLM, SFM, livelihood etc activities (Output 3.3)			70,000				70,000		20,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	
	2216	DREDD support for oversight and extension for land and forest restoration, bioenergy, RE and EE options, etc. (Output 3,3)		20,000	20,000				40,000	5000	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	
	2217	Consultancy for preparation of KM and communication plan and communication materials and conduct of awareness (Output 4.1)				30,000			30,000		30,000				
	2218	Development of tools for policy information (Output 4.2)		20000	20000				40,000		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	2299	**Sub-total**	320,000	395,000	368,000	30,000	-	-	1,113,000	185,000	410,000	285,000	160,000	73,000	1,1
	2300														
	2301	Sub-contracts (for commercial purposes)	-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2302		-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2303		-	-	-		-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
	2399	**Sub-total**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2999	**Component total**		320,000	1,344,425	1,647,000	30,000	-	-	3,341,425	324,210	920,000	935,000	810,000	352,215	3,3
30	TRAINING COMPONENT														
	3200														
	3201	Training of key regional staff to support LUP, co-management and ecov	80,000	-			-	-	80,000		20,000	30,000	30,000		
	3202	Trainings and workshops for NCA and accounting, related capacity development (Outputs 1.1 and 1.2)	60,000				-		60,000	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	

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 Agencys 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 G. Changes Made to the Project Design from the Project Concept

Summary of changes made	PIF	GEF CEO ER/ Prodoc	Rationale
Outcome 1 name and focus	*Madagascar's development of a strategic framework integrates policies, regulatory, and institutional arrangements on NCA and the creation of Ecovillages*	*Development of a strategic framework to mainstream NCA into policy, regulatory, and institutional arrangements, including supporting the creation of Ecovillages*	Slight modification to better clarify the application of NCA as the means to develop the national framework for supporting the creation of ecovillages
Output 1.3	*Two regional NCA valuations reports highlighting sectoral components are produced*	*Policy scenario analysis on natural capital assessment of Ecovillages and land-use planning in Central Highlands, based on biophysical modeling and valuation of ecosystem services;*	Revised to specify an actual focus on NCA work on ecovillages that would lead to activities in Components 2 and 3

Targets	*16 ecovillages* *Core Indicator 1 ? 50,331ha* *Core Indicator 4.1: 250,000 ha* *Core Indicator 4.3: 300,000 ha* *Core Indicator 11: 100,000*	*18 ecovillages* *53,092ha* *238,234* *119,453 ha* *120,000*	The changes were necessitated based on the exclusion of potential ecovillage sites northwest of the COFAV (on account of security situation) to sites within and adjacent to COFAV. The figures now reflected are based on the consultation on the ground and realistic expectations of targets based on capacity, land availability, financial resources and commitments
Component budgets were adjusted	*Component 1: $800,000* *Component 2: $3,000,000* *Component 3: $1,214,215* *Component 4: 370,000* *PMC: $269,210*	*Component 1: $765,000* *Component 2: $1,934,425* *Component 3: $2,260,500* *Component 4: $448,000 including M&E and KM)* *PMC: $245,500*	The budget was adjusted to allocate resources between four project Components and the M&E/KM block. These allocations were carefully calculated in consultations with key stakeholders to ensure enough funds are available for the implementation of each Component. The increase in Component 3 (and a corresponding decrease in Component 2) is attributed to the fact that the formation and governance structures of ecovillages, the full range of investment on-the-ground activities in ecovillages in terms of forest conservation/restoration, NRM, watershed management, SLM, agriculture, livelihoods and SMEs, water management, etc will occur in the ecovillages under Component 3, while Component 2 will focus on LUPs and co-management in COFAV, which comparatively is smaller in scale and scope that the ecovillage activities (refer Section 4 of GEF CEO ER for discussion on alignment and inter-relationship of project activities to GEF focal area strategies)
Project co-financing was adjusted to real commitments	*$24,978,115*	*$27,476,346*	Adjusted to actual co-financing committed to the project

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).