



Upscaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Madagascar's Coastal Zones

Review CEO Endorsement and Make a recommendation

Basic project information

GEF ID

10939

Countries

Madagascar

Project Name

Upscaling Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Madagascar's Coastal Zones

Agencies

UNEP

Date received by PM

9/21/2023

Review completed by PM

11/17/2023

Program Manager

Jason Spensley

Focal Area

Climate Change

Project Type

PIF

CEO Endorsement

Part I ? Project Information

Focal area elements

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Project description summary

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

A) We note there have been significant changes in the outcomes and outputs from the PIF to the CER submission. Please provide a detailed explanation of why each change was made in each outcome and output from the PIF to the CER, and the anticipated impacts each of these changes will have on the project and particularly on the project impacts. Further comments from the GEF Secretariat may be provided once we receive these explanations in the CER resubmission.

B) Please explain how the following comment in the PIF review sheet have been fully addressed in the CER, and if not please do address them in a resubmission, and indicate specific outputs that will address each comment.

- Regarding Output 1.1.1: During project preparation prior to CEO Endorsement, please further detail sustainable financing strategies with corresponding activities.

- Regarding Output 1.1.3: During project preparation prior to CEO Endorsement, please provide a more specific response, and make any relevant modifications to the PIF, on how these costed actions will be incorporated into domestic public budgets and/or otherwise sustainably financed through this project.

- Regarding outcome 2.1 and its associated outputs: During PPG and prior to CEO Endorsement, please detail what sustainable financing strategies will be deployed, and build these into the specific activities and budget.

Agency Response

A) The project's results framework has been moderately restructured in terms of project outcomes and outputs from the PIF, while maintaining the same approach to contribute to the overall project objective established at the PIF stage.

The main change corresponds to modifying two of the initially targeted coastal regions. As explained in the CEO ER, the change of regions was informed by a consultative process with the Madagascar government. It corresponded to the need to align with the NAP priorities and to have a more equal distribution of investments in the regions. For example, Fitovavy-Vitovinany was replaced by Atsimo Atsinanana as the first has benefitted from more significant investments in adaptation than the second, despite its high vulnerability to coastal climate risks. The geographical change also promotes the upscaling of EBA through two approaches as per the preferences of the recipient country: 1) upscaling of EBA within the same region of the Phase I project by expanding the EBA approach to new communes in the region and further strengthening the capacity of the CR GIZCs (case of Boeny and Menabe) and 2) replicating the coastal EBA model to new regions (Atsimo Atsinanana and Diana) as part of the NAP sectoral action programmes.

The changes in the outcomes and outputs with regards to the PIF are detailed in the **Table 1 of the CEO ER Summary of changes in project design with the PIF**. At the outcome level, these changes include splitting outcome 1.1 into two outcomes to reflect better the two types of interventions related to institutional capacity building: a) coordination of adaptation action; and b) integration of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) into planning documents. Outcome 2 was also rephrased, removing the reference to planning as planning aspects have been included under outcome 1.2. This renaming and restructuring do not affect the initially planned outcomes in terms of strengthening institutional capacity, mainstreaming into relevant planning documents, and enhancing community capacity on EBA. Outcomes 2.2, 3.1, and 4.1 remain unchanged.

At the output level, the dissolution of the national-level GIZC committee in 2022 prompted a review of PIF Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2, focusing on the regional-level GIZC committees and platforms, which remain relevant and operational in the new institutional context. Initial PIF Outputs 2.1.1 and 1.1.3 were merged under output 1.2.3, considering the close linkages between these two planning documents (SACs and PCDs). The absence of an up-to-date Regional Development Plan (PRD) for the newly selected region of Atsimo Atsinanana led to

the inclusion of new Output 1.2.1. The inclusion of the Atsimo Atsinanana region also necessitated the addition of a new output (2.2.3) for coastal vegetation restoration, reflecting the specific ecosystem and coastal EBA priority in this region.

Another new output (1.2.2) was introduced as further consultations revealed that effective mainstreaming of EBA in SACs and PCDs would require the development of guidelines that facilitate such mainstreaming and replicability at the national level, aligning with the upscaling objective of the project.

PPG consultations revealed that it is more pertinent to support Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) that have been established but are no longer operational due to a lack of support, as opposed to creating new ones. This justified the change in Output 2.1.1. Simultaneously, as fisheries management plans had been recently produced in all regions, Output 2.1.3 from the initial PIF became obsolete and was removed. However, decentralization at the local level is still required, and this aspect is considered part of the support to LMMAs under Output 2.1.1.

Finally, output 3.1.1 was rephrased to reflect the refined approach proposed by the project, which focuses on setting up incubators to support different businesses/entrepreneurs, rather than only establishing new businesses without a mechanism to ensure sustained support and capacity-building.

These modifications have been made to adapt to the evolving needs and circumstances between the PIF and CEO ER stages, ensuring the project's ownership and relevance for the country while maintaining alignment with the project's results framework, objective and beneficiary targets.

B)

Regarding output 1.1.1, details on sustainable financing strategies are provided in paragraphs 76- 78. We have further strengthened this section and renamed activity 1.1.1.3 as follows ? Develop Regional ICZM Committee/Platform action plans and sustainable financing strategies, that are inclusive and incorporate elements of a gender-sensitive approach? .

The budget has been reviewed to increase the number of days of national consultant dedicated to Output 1.1.1 activities, including the facilitation of Regional ICZM Committee/Platform action plans and financing strategies, from 105 days to 118 days at 300 USD/day (BL1201) .The additional budget was reallocated from a reduction in the daily rate of the International consultant to develop the upscaling strategy from 750 USD/day to 620/day (BL 1216). Additionally the project will support the existing and more mature Regional ICZM Committee/Platforms in Menabe and Boeny with the coverage of operational costs up to 60,000 USD (BL 2112 and BL 2113) to lead and coordinate the development of action plans and financing strategies as well as the coordination and oversight of other project activities in the respective regions.

The Sustainability section of the CEO ER has been updated to consider the financial sustainability of the Regional ICZM Committees (paragraph 182) and the Project Document updated accordingly.

Output 1.1.3 has been converted into Output 1.2.3 Revision of twenty (20) SACs and twenty (20) PCDs to effectively integrate EbA approaches through a cross-sectoral and participatory process.

Paragraphs 86-92 in output 1.2.3 description refer to the financial sustainability of the SACs and PCDs and have been strengthened. Specific reference to the development of investment plans for the sustainable financing the cost -effective EBA options identified as part of the

PCD and SAC development process has been included in the title of activities 1.2.3.4 and 1.2.3.5. This work will be carried out through a contract with consultancy firm/NGO to revise/update 20 SACs and 20 PCDs @ 260,000 USD (BL 2104).

The Sustainability section of the CEO ER has been updated to consider the financial sustainability of the Regional ICZM Committees (paragraph 184) and the Project Document updated accordingly.

Regarding Outcome 2.1 Enhanced community capacity to implement EbA approaches and locally manage natural resources to increase climate resilience, and specifically Output 2.1.1 Eight (8) orphan LMMAs supported for increased climate resilience of marine ecosystems and related livelihoods , Paragraphs 103-107 discuss possible financing approaches. We have strengthened this section by adding further details on the LMMA financing options scoped at PPG stage. Specific mention to the development of the financing plan has been included in activity 2.1.1.4. This work will be carried out under the contract with a consultancy firm/NGO to support 8 orphan LMMAs @USD85,000 per LMMA (BL 2105).

The Sustainability section of the CEO ER has been updated to consider the financial sustainability of LMMAs (paragraph 186) and the Project Document updated accordingly.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

Co-financing

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

A) Please explain why the co-finance from GCF and IFAD was removed from the time of PIF approval, and the implications this will have on the project.

B) Please include an official signed letter of co-financing with date per co-financing policy for MINAE.

C) The co-financing contribution to PMC is not proportionate compared with the GEF contribution to PMC. If the GEF contribution is kept at 5%, for a co-financing of \$26,277,146

the expected contribution to PMC must be around \$1,313,857 instead of \$393,378 (which is 1.4%). As the costs associated with the project management must be covered by the GEF portion and the co-financing portion allocated to the PMC, the GEF contribution and the co-financing contribution must be proportional, which means that the GEF contribution to PMC might be decreased and the co-financing contribution to PMC might be increased to reach a similar level. Please ask the Agency to amend either by increasing the co-financing portion and/or by reducing the GEF portion.

Agency Response

A) The GCF Sustainable Landscapes project, implemented primarily in the landscapes of the Ambositra Vondrozo Forest Corridor (COFAV) and the Ankeniheny-Zahamena Forest Corridor (CAZ), was not retained as co-financing due to the lack of direct geographical overlap with the coastal areas of the selected region in Eastern Madagascar (Atsimo Atsinanana). However, the project has been included in Table 11. Initiatives to coordinate with in the CEO ER resubmission.

The GCF EBA IO project was not retained as co-financing as the geographic and thematic areas of highest priority for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) of the project are yet to be defined. However, the project is included in Table 11. Initiatives to coordinate with in the CEO ER resubmission.

IFAD DEFIS project co-financing of US\$ 503,420 for Outcome 3 has been confirmed and has been included in the CEO resubmission. The signed co-financing letter has been included in the attachments of the CEO ER as well as in Appendix 9 of the file Appendices to the ProDoc This brings the total co-financing to US\$ 27,174,166 and raises it still further above the PIF approved amount of co-financing.

B) An official signed and dated letter of cofinancing letter from MINAE was submitted on 21 September with the CEO ER in the Portal. Please refer to the file ?Lettre cofinancement MINAE? in the attachments.

C) The PMC co-finance portion has been revised to US\$ 1,310,600, 5% of the subtotal co-financing of US\$ 25,863,566.

GEF Resource Availability

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please provide a disaggregated list of each activity, and its cost, funded through the PPG using the categories provided in Guidelines.

Agency Response

The discrepancy has been amended in Annex C status of PPG utilization, thank you for the remark.

The consultancy services have been further broken into the PPG eligible costs as follows:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
National inception and validation workshops (2)	16,000	11,699	259

Regional consultation workshops (4) and community consultations	21,203	25,245	0
Consultancy services to develop project options, including technical studies, basic costing, financial plan, etc.	115,850	57,925	57,925
Consultancy services for the Gender and Environmental and Social Safeguards analysis	31,500	15,750	15,750
Travel costs for local and international experts for consultations and discussions with interested parties and stakeholders	15,447	7,723.50	7,723.50
Total	200,000	118,342.50	81,657.50

Core indicators

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Yes, but please explain why the 40% focus on natural resource management was removed from the time of the PIF.

Agency Response

We had considered 100% coastal zone management, considering that the natural resources managed in the project are coastal ecosystems.

The core indicators for PIF and CEO ER in the Adaptation tracking tool are the ones shown below. The core indicator numbers have increased.

		PIF	CEO ER
Core Indicator 1	Total no. of direct beneficiaries	91000	95940
	Male	45500	47970
	Female	45500	47970
Core Indicator 2	Area of land managed for climate resilience (ha)	5000	5100
Core Indicator 3	Total no. of policies/plans that will mainstream climate resilience	40	41
Core Indicator 4	Total no. of people trained	1060	1085
	Male	530	551
	Female	530	534

Part II ? Project Justification

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Yes, there has been some elaboration. However, some of the information in the PIF has been removed from the CER. Why was it removed? Is it no longer relevant to the project, and if so why? Please ensure all relevant information in the PIF is maintained in the CER.

Agency Response

The information provided in the PIF Part II Project Justification 1.a.1 was maintained, expanded and updated in the full Project Document submitted with the CEO ER on 21st September. Please refer to the Pro Doc SECTION 2: BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS (BASELINE), 2.1. Background and context, which includes description of socio-economic context, biophysical context of the country and areas of intervention (ecosystems and services), key drivers of national economy (agricultural sector, fisheries, tourism sector) and institutional and policy context at the national and the regional level.

The information was shortened in the CEO ER to keep the document succinct.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

It seems that significant information on baseline initiatives and co-financing project was removed from the time of PIF approval. Please explain why or put it back in.

Agency Response

The baseline initiatives SWIOFish2 and WIO-SAP identified in the PIF were included in the CEO ER *Table 7: Baseline initiatives and lessons learnt*, except for the Madagascar Agriculture Rural Growth and Land Management Project (CASEF) which was included under *Table 11: Initiative to coordinate with*.

The *CEO ER Table 7: Baseline initiatives and lessons learnt* also includes five additional baseline initiatives not previously included in the PIF:

- ? Adapting coastal zone management to climate change considering ecosystem and livelihoods LDCF/ GEF (ID 4568)
- ? Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Project Phase 1 (PCD)
- ? Sustainable Management of the Environment Programme (PAGE)
- ? Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity in the Northwestern Landscape LDCF/GEF (ID9606)
- ? Creating a network of resilient MPAs in globally significant areas of the Western Indian Ocean

Regarding the cofinancing initiatives proposed at the PIF stage:

- ? Inclusive Agricultural Value Chains Development Programme (DEFIS) : maintained as cofinancing in the CEO ER,
- ? Program for the Protection and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources Phase II (PAGE II) : maintained as cofinancing in the CEO ER. PAGE I considered under Baseline initiatives and lessons learnt (Table 7) in the CEO ER.
- ? Sustainable Landscapes in Eastern Madagascar: was not retained as cofinancing due to the lack of geographical overlap, as explained above. The project has been included as an initiative to coordinate with (Table 7) in the CEO ER resubmission.

? Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean ? EBA IO: Cofinancing from this project in Menabe region was not retained in the final cofinancing arrangements, however the project has been included as an initiative to coordinate with (Table 7) in the CEO ER resubmission.

? Resilience of Indian Ocean Coastal Areas (RECOs) Project: Cofinancing from this project in was not retained in the final cofinancing arrangements, however the project has been included as an initiative to coordinate with (Table 7) in the CEO ER resubmission.

Other project interventions executed by MEDD and MINAE were prioritized as co-financing.

Please note that total co-financing is US\$ 27,174,166 and above the PIF approved amount of co-financing.

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

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion
18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request
18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

It seems that significant information on co-financing project was removed from the time of PIF approval. Please explain why or put it back in. Similarly, it seems that significant information on adaptation benefits was removed? Please explain why or address this.

Agency Response

Only the information on confirmed co-financing projects has been retained in the CEO ER. The changes in cofinancing have been explained under question 2. Additional information on adaptation benefits and environmental benefits has been included in the CEO ER resubmission in section 10.Benefits.

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Project Map and Coordinates

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please provide project map.

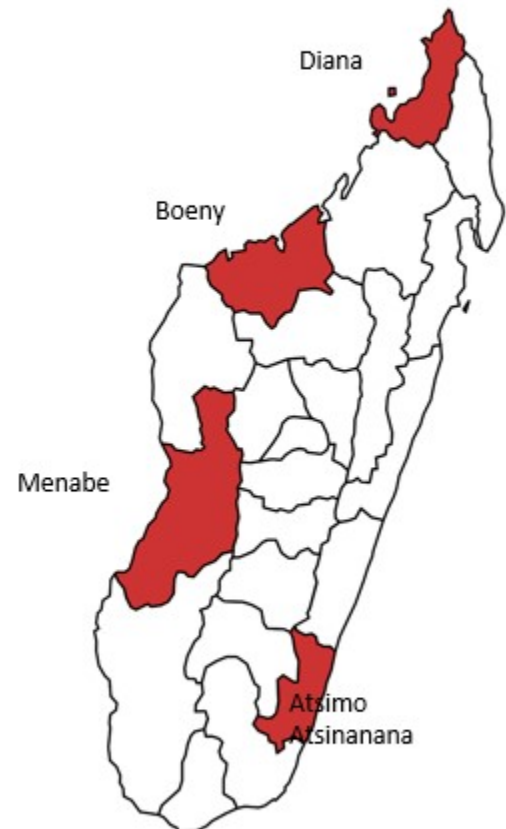
Agency Response

The map provided in Annex E shows the target coastal regions and coordinates. The 20 target communes in the four regions will be selected during the project inception phase. Therefore, detailed maps of the selected communes will be provided in the first PIR.

Geocoordinates:
Diana - 12°16'12"S 49°16'48"E
Boeny - 15°43'12"S 46°19'12"E
Menabe - 20°18'00"S 44°16'48"E
Atsimo Atsinanana - 22.819°S 47.83°E

Legend

■ Project regions



Child Project

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

Stakeholders

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

It is well noted that the project has provided details on stakeholder consultations during PPG and submitted a well-articulated stakeholder engagement plan (SEP). However, the SEP only includes groups of stakeholders with limited information on the specific CSOs, CBOs, groups and associations that will be engaged in project implementation. Please provide further details on these specific organizations and groups.

Agency Response

The specific CSOs, CBOs that will be engaged in each region are not defined in the SEP as their selection depends on the outcome of the selection of communes to be targeted in each region (5 communes per region), the selection of the restoration sites and the selection of the LMMAs, which will be informed by the inception phase and the baseline study to be carried out in the first months of implementation.

Additional details on the type of CSOs, CBOs, groups and associations have been included in Appendix 13 on the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Has the gender analysis been completed? Did the gender analysis identify any gender differences, gaps or opportunities linked to project/program objectives and activities? If so, does the

project/program include gender-responsive activities, gender-sensitive indicators and expected results?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

In paras 2, 3, and 4 of this section, please elaborate on what types of private sector actors are being referred to, and to the extent possible provide specific names and numbers of private sector actors who will be engaged in each aspect.

Agency Response

Please refer to the additional details added in section 4 Private Sector Engagement of the CEO ER resubmission: paragraphs 202-204.

In the first Component, the private sector, in particular those with a stake in fisheries, and relevant professional associations in each selected commune will be solicited to take part in the cross-sectoral participatory process of development of the SACs and PCDs, and will be considered key stakeholders when defining the composition of the reformulated CRGIZC/Platforms.

In the second Component, private sector actors within the LMMA that generate income from marine resources (including fishermen groups, processing groups and traders) will also participate in capacity-building activities related to Locally Managed Marine Areas. In fact, the private sector will be a direct beneficiary of support for engaging in the finance mechanisms for management of the LMMA. A limited number of mechanisms may be relevant for such financing, including concession fees and specific arrangements for

businesses developed as part of the project under Component 3 These interventions will be closely coordinated with Component 3, which will further assist the target communities in establishing ecosystem-based businesses and negotiating collaborations with the private sector for the development of specific value chains. Additionally other sources of private sector financing that will be explored included contributions from large scale companies such as Copefrito, who provides contributions for each kg of octopus collected, or visitors fees in areas that are attractive for eco-tourism, such as Diana.

The third Component focuses entirely on supporting producers and MSMEs for the development of sustainable businesses that are climate-resilient and/or can deliver adaptation services. The incubation programme proposed in component 3 will select 40-50 climate-resilient ecosystem-based social enterprises for incubation within the selected value chains. Out of these, it is expected that approximately 20 social enterprises will be established legally as social enterprises and their business model launched. Social enterprises established under Output 3.1.1 will be connected to financial institutions and potential investors. The project will explore opportunities of partnering with the growing number of equity funds for adaptation-oriented businesses (e.g. Climate Resilience Fund, CRAFT, Adaptation Accelerator Program, etc.), who could be invited to take part in the proposed finance actor group as detailed earlier in the Component 3 description.

Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Coordination

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Consistency with National Priorities

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS)

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

18Oct2023:

Yes

Agency Response

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please include a budget for M&E in Section 9 in the CER.

Agency Response

Thank you for the remark. The costed M&E plan was included in Annex 4 of the Project Document, in the file named ?ID 10930 GEF 7 Appendices to the ProDoc-final? and has been revised. The costed M&E plan (Table 13) has also been updated in the M&E section of the resubmitted CEO ER.

Table 13 Costed M&E plan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ (Excluding project team staff time)	Time frame
Inception workshop and report	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP TM	Indicative cost: US\$10,456	Within the first two months of project implementation. Will be undertaken at the national and sub-national scales.
Baseline study	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP TM	Indicative cost: US\$45,000	At project inception.
Measurement of means of verification of project results	UNEP TM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer PM	To be finalized during Inception Workshop. Indicative costs: US\$40,000 for Results verification at project mid-term and Results verification at project completion	Start, mid and end of project (during evaluation cycle) and annually when required.

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget US\$ (Excluding project team staff time)	Time frame
Measurement of means of verification for project progress on output and implementation	UNEP TM PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer	To be determined as part of the AWP's preparation.	Annually prior to PIR and to the definition of annual work plans.
Annual project report (APR)	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP TM UNEP FMO (Fund Management Officer)	None	Annually
PIR	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP TM UNEP FMO (Fund Management Officer)	None	Annually
Periodic status/ progress reports	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP TM	None	Quarterly
Midterm Review (MTR)	UNEP TM/UNEP Evaluation Office	Indicative cost: US\$40,000	At the mid-point of project implementation.
Terminal Evaluation (TE)	UNEP Evaluation Office	Indicative cost: US\$55,000	At least three months before the end of project implementation.
Project terminal report	PM M&E and Knowledge Management Officer UNEP FMO UNEP TM	None	Upon completion of the terminal evaluation.
UNEP Visits to pilot intervention sites in four coastal regions	UNEP TM	For GEF supported projects, paid from UNEP's IA fees and operational budget.	Two annual supervision missions by UNEP.
TOTAL indicative COST excluding project team staff time and UNEP staff and travel expenses		Estimated Cost: US\$ 262,456 inclusive of M&E specialist staff time @ 72,000 USD	

Benefits

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please see comment above on adaptation benefits.

The daily rate of international consultant @\$750 seems high. Please consider if this can be lowered.

Agency Response

Additional information on adaptation benefits and environmental benefits has been included in the CEO ER resubmission in section 10) Benefits.

Please see below response on the international consultant rate.

Annexes

Are all the required annexes attached and adequately responded to?

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27Nov2023:

Technically cleared, for consideration of PPO colleagues for policy adherence.

19Nov2023:

- A) While the Monitoring and Evaluation budgeted table was included, its cost (\$364,056) represents 5.1% of the GEF financing ? the suggest threshold for projects between 5 ? 10 million is 3%. Please revise.
- B) Budget Table: overall, the quality of the pasted table in Portal in Portal is very low, which made difficult the reading ? please paste a better-quality table. In the meantime, herewith you

will find some comments on the legible budget lines (some lines were not legible, reason why per the resubmission we may add comments if appropriate):

-
- Please move the decimals.
-
- Maintenance of vehicles: vehicles and associated costs are encouraged to be covered by co-financing resources.

18Oct2023:

The budget table (annex E) is not fully readable as it is displayed incorrectly. Please upload it again a different way so it can be viewed easier. The budget table provided in Annex E is off the margins with this the format, it is not possible to review it. Please provide a readable table for our review ? per the resubmission we will provide comments if appropriate.

Please ensure the GEF project budget template is used.

The daily rate of international consultant @\$750 seems high. Please consider if this can be lowered.

Agency Response

Response to comments 18 October :

The format of budget table E has been fixed as per GEF format and resubmitted. It has also been uploaded as an Excel file.

The rate of 750 USD/day for the international consultant leading the upscaling strategy was based on the rates that experienced consultants charge for this kind of services, based on competitive recruitment processes. This estimation was based on the maximum fee of a Level D consultant (UN scale). The minimum fee of Level D (620 USD/day) has been considered instead. If lower rates are obtained, we would propose re-allocating the cost savings through the usual budget revision process.

Response to comments 17 November:

A) The overall M&E budget has been reduced from 364,056.00 USD to 262,456 USD, representing 3.7 % of the total budget. Considering the project financing budget is 7,105,936 USD and is therefore on the upper side of the 5-10 million projects range, we kindly request favourable consideration of the 3.7% M&E which will enable a robust approach to results-based monitoring. The costed M&E plan (Table 13 of the CEO ER) and Appendix 4 of the Appendices to the ProDoc have been updated accordingly.

B) The quality of the pasted table has been improved in the portal to facilitate reading. The revised budget has also been uploaded in the Documents section (GEF budget template and Appendix 1 detailed budget)

The decimals have been removed.

Maintenance of vehicles has been removed, only remaining fuel costs as per the budget line description.

The savings in PMC costs associated with the elimination of the vehicle maintenance have been reallocated to budget line 3301 to include the costs of the Technical steering committee (5 meetings at 1,500 USD, total 7,500 USD). The omission of these costs was an oversight. Following the experience with other GEF LDCF projects, we find these technical meetings are very relevant to enhance the quality of the intervention and enable informed decision-making by the PSC.

Project Results Framework

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Oct2023:

Cleared

Agency Response

GEF Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please address the comments and resubmit with responses in the comment sheet and revisions to the CER.

Agency Response The CEO ER and annexes have been resubmitted addressing the comments.

Council comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

STAP comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Convention Secretariat comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Other Agencies comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

CSOs comments

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

Agency Response

Status of PPG utilization

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27Nov2023:

Cleared

19Nov2023:

•On the utilization of the PPG, UNEP partially provided a disaggregated list of each activity and its cost using the categories provided in Guidelines ? for instance, the category ?Contractual Services? ?which is the most expensive (\$167,979) is not an eligible category ? also, the sum in column ?Amount Committed? is wrong. Please amend.

Agency Response

The discrepancy has been amended in Annex C status of PPG utilization, thank you for the remark.

The consultancy services have been further broken into the PPG eligible costs as follows:

PPG Grant Approved at PIF:			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	
National inception and validation workshops (2)	16,000	11,699	
Regional consultation workshops (4) and community consultations	21,203	25,245	
Consultancy services to develop project options, including technical studies, basic costing, financial plan, etc.	115,850	57,925	
Consultancy services for the Gender and Environmental and Social Safeguards analysis	31,500	15,750	
Travel costs for local and international experts for consultations and discussions with interested parties and stakeholders	15,447	7,723.50	
Total	200,000	118,342.50	

Project maps and coordinates

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

19Nov2023:

Cleared

18Oct2023:

Please see comments above on the map.

Agency Response

The map provided in Annex E shows the target coastal regions and coordinates. The 20 target communes in the four regions will be selected during the project inception phase and following the results of the baseline study. Therefore, detailed maps of the selected communes will be provided in the first PIR.

Geocoordinates:

Diana - 12°16'12"S 49°16'48"E

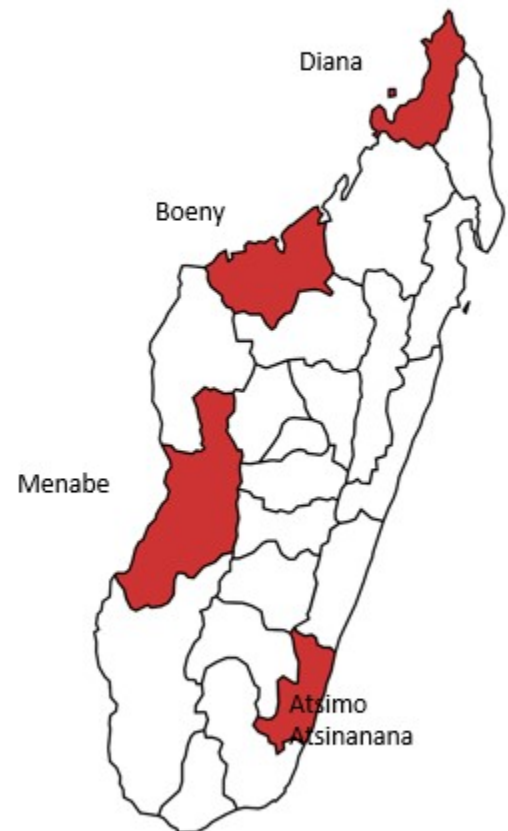
Boeny - 15°43'12"S 46°19'12"E

Menabe - 20°18'00"S 44°16'48"E

Atsimo Atsinanana - 22.819°S 47.83°E

Legend

■ Project regions



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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request N/A

Agency Response

GEFSEC DECISION

RECOMMENDATION

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

Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement Request

27Nov023:

Cleared, pending final review for policy adherence.

19Nov2023:

A few comments remain to be addressed.

18Oct2023:

Not yet. Comments need to be addressed.

Review Dates

	Secretariat Comment at CEO Endorsement	Response to Secretariat comments
First Review	10/18/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/19/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/27/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)	11/27/2023	
Additional Review (as necessary)		

CEO Recommendation

Brief reasoning for CEO Recommendations