

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)



PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM-SIZED-SIZED PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TRUST FUND

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Participatory Sustainable Land Management in the Grassland Plateaus of Western Madagascar		
Country(ies):	Madagascar	GEF Project ID:	
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01077
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment and Forests (MEF)	Submission Date:	03-26-2013
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	36
Name of parent programme (if applicable):	n/a	Agency Fee (US\$):	142,500

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK:

Focal Area Objectives	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Financing (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
Land Degradation 1: Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities.	GEF TF	1,500,000	5,345,500
Total project costs		1,500,000	5,345,500

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objective: To reverse land degradation and improve living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Project Component	Grant Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Indicative Grant Amount (\$)	Indicative Co-financing (\$)
1. Institutional development and capacity building	TA	1.1 All concerned local level stakeholders are able and committed to implementing sustainable land management (SLM) measures.	1.1.1. Effective participatory land management Committees in 7 communes; 1.1.2. Participative understanding of the baseline (i.e. of socio-economics, demographics, land rights,	GEF TF	300,000	700,000

		<u>Indicators</u> 7 communal SLM Implementation Plans approved at communal, district and regional level, with necessary resource commitments.	land-use practices, conflicts, local knowledge, status of natural resources – i.e. soil, water, forest, and status of services – i.e. carbon, biodiversity) in 7 communes 1.1.3. Adaptive sustainable land management Implementation Plans for 7 communes.			
2. Implementing sustainable land management measures.	TA	2.1 Land degradation stopped and living conditions improved across the project intervention area. <u>Indicators</u> In 7 communes: - Status of natural resources (water availability, erosion levels, soil fertility); - Number of conflicts between agriculturalists and herders; - Overall household revenue.	Following Outputs apply to all 7 pilot communes. 2.1.1. Implementation of agreed, urgent measures (awareness raising, supplying wood-fuel to replace forest cuttings, urgent technical support etc.). <i>(the following are indicative, to be determined in detail through the plans prepared under 1.1.3.)</i> 2.1.2. Ongoing support to socio-economic activities (whilst waiting for the new measures to be introduced through 2.1.3 – 2.1.4 to have an impact). 2.1.3. Trained farmers, trained herders and trained members of the local land management committees (trained in new land management techniques and in business development). 2.1.4. Alternative, integrated, adaptive, eco-friendly and productive agricultural, herding and energy production practices developed and piloted. 2.1.5. Participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental and socio-economic parameters.	GEF TF	780,000	3,995,500
3. Knowledge management	TA	3.1 Project successes are made permanent and replicated. <u>Indicators</u> Farmers in	3.1.1. Lessons captured in multi-media format – including videos, manuals, guidelines, maps, etc. 3.1.2. Strategy to expand measures across Bongolava	GEF TF	195,000	450,000

	neighbouring communes adopt improved land management measures.	Region.			
	Subsequent Bongolava Regional Development Plans disseminate the SLM practices introduced under this project.	3.1.3. Broad and high level commitment to expanding and replicating measures.			
			Sub-Total	1,275,000	5,145,500
Project management cost			GEF TF	125,000	200,000
Total project costs				1,400,000	5,345,500

C. INDICATIVE CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME IF AVAILABLE, (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture (General Secretary)	Cash and in-kind	2,000,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agricultural Production)	Cash	200,000
National Government	Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Local Support)	Cash	1,200,000
National Government	Ministry of Livestock Raising (Department for Animal Resources)	Cash	45,500
National Government	Local technical services (DREF, DIRE, DIRAGRI)	In-Kind	100,000
Local Government	Bongolava Regional Government	In-Kind	100,000
Local Government	Tsiroanomandidy District Government	In-Kind	50,000
Local Government	Communal Governments	In-Kind	50,000
NGO	ANAE	Cash	200,000
NGO	GSDM	Cash	200,000
Multi-lateral	Indian Ocean Commission	Cash	250,000
Multi-lateral	African Development Bank (PROJERMO Project)	Cash	500,000
Multi-lateral	African Development Bank (VAHATRA Project)	Cash	200,000
GEF Agency	UNEP		250,000
Others			
Total Co-financing			5,345,500

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES (\$) REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	Grant amount (\$) (a)	Agency Fee (\$) (b)	Total (\$) (a + b)
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Madagascar	1,400,000	133,000	1,533,000

Total Grant Resources	1,400,000	133,000	1,533,000
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E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)

Please check on the appropriate box for PPG as needed for the project according to the GEF Project Grant

	Amount Requested (\$)	Agency Fee for PPG (\$)
• No PPG required		
• (up to) \$50k for projects up to and including \$1 million		
• (up to) \$100k for projects up to and including \$3 million	100,000	9,500
• (up to) \$150k for projects up to and including \$6 million		
• (up to) \$200k for projects up to and including \$10 million		
• (up to) \$300k for projects above \$10 million		

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), FOCAL AREA(S) AND COUNTRY(IES) FOR MFA AND/OR MTF

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal area	Country Name/Global	(in \$)		
				PPG (a)	Agency Fee (b)	Total c = a + b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Madagascar	100,000	9,500	109,500
Total PPG Amount				100,000	9,500	109,500

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. PROJECT OVERVIEW

A.1. Project Description

The Global environment problems, root causes and barriers

Bongolava is a region in the mid-west of Madagascar lying approximately 220km to the west of the capital Antananarivo. It has a total area of 19,503 km² and a population of just over 320,000 – meaning it is very sparsely populated, although the population has been growing rapidly in recent years. Administratively it is divided into 2 Districts (Tsiroanomandidy and Fenoarivobe), 26 Communes and 316 Fokontany. It lies between 17.7° and 19.4° South of the equator, and between 800m and 1,500m above sea level. It has a mid-altitude tropical climate, with average annual rainfalls ranging from 1,400 – 1,800mm.

Bongolava Region is characterized by predominantly lateritic soils covered by grasslands (88%). Most of the land is plateaus that are used mostly for rainfed agriculture and grazing. Many of the lower lying lands and floodplains have been converted into rice fields. Clearly, the region has great agricultural potential. Forest cover in the region is very low (under 6%). The natural terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity of Bongolava are represented by the vast expanses of pseudosteppes and /or savannas and dense dry forest remnants. Little is known of the biodiversity, although certain endemic and threatened species have been inventoried.

The population of Bongolava is poorer than the average Malagasy. Mostly, the population arrived in waves of migration starting in the 1970's, mostly promoted by government programmes, although some has been spontaneous. The population depends almost entirely on natural resources for their socio-economic activities: a combination of agriculture, livestock raising and sylvicultural activities (mainly for wood fuel). Migration continues to this day. There is a significant number of conflicts – almost entirely none-violent – often between the different generation of migrants, and between agriculturalists and livestock raisers.

The environment in Bongolava faces the following problems:

- Declining soil fertility. Overall agricultural production has stagnated in recent years, and increases in production are obtained through extension rather than improved productivity;
- Increasing soil erosion – both wind and water driven – where valuable topsoil is lost leaving fragile, less productive soils. The phenomenon of ravines contributes greatly to this, whilst being a problem in itself. 36% of communes have more than ten of the huge ravines known as *lavaka*;
- Sedimentation and siltation, especially of lower lying wetlands and rice growing areas. This is linked to erosion upstream. This affects over 80% of rice fields; and,
- The increasing drying up of watering points (this is often caused by land fires), water courses and shortages of water.

The underlying causes of the above mentioned environmental problems are the following:

- Poor agricultural practices, notably mono-cultures which are practiced by local people with an inadequate knowledge of agriculture. This also includes the inappropriate use of agricultural machines (damaging the land) and too much burning of cropped land;
- Over-grazing. Grazing is dominated by cattle. It is noted that cattle numbers increased from 261,000 in 2006 to 389,000 in 2012;
- Forest fires. For example, in 2006, over 188,000 hectares were affected;
- Declining rainfall, a shorter rainy season and climate change; and,
- Invasive plant species – which are mostly an indicator of degradation rather than a cause. However, invasive species do make restoration programmes more difficult.

The most significant socio-economic impacts of these environmental problems are:

- Declining productivity, both of agriculture and livestock raising;
- Declining revenue and increasing danger of poverty;
- Shortages of fire wood and water;
- Increasing danger of conflicts between sedentary and migratory populations, and;
- Exodus to towns and cities.

The current land management systems are a combination of modern and traditional systems. The national government, through its regional and local affiliates, promotes measures and projects to improve productivity, however, these are not always adapted to respect local needs and available resources. The various ethnic groups in Bongolava have systems for allocating and managing land, and these may come into mutual conflict as the population grows. The state sponsored system of technical support provides agricultural extension services down to the village level.

The solution to the above challenges is the development of new natural resource management systems and conflict management systems at both the commune level¹ and at the farmer plot level. The introduced management systems should respect the capacity of land, they should improve land conditions, and should facilitate an equitable distribution of resources. New systems should also be both integrated – encompassing agriculture, forestry, water and livestock management, and adaptive – inherently having the ability to adapt to challenges, including climate change. They should lead to both increasing levels of production and productivity, whilst maintaining the ecological integrity of the land.

Various partners have experimented and developed such natural resource management systems in Madagascar and elsewhere, with some success. However, there are a series of barriers to introducing such systems in Bongolava. The three main barriers are (i) Bongolava is not a priority area for policy makers and so does not receive adequate resources. National and regional stakeholders do not have access to sufficient resources to drive the process in Bongolava. This is exacerbated by the ongoing national political crisis makes – which makes it difficult to implement local development programmes; (ii) natural resource management technologies, although generally known, need to be refined and modified to each specific locality, and this has not happened adequately in Bongolava; and, (iii) information, particularly scientific information on Bongolava ecosystems, is limited.²

¹ Average commune population is 13,000.

² Generally in Madagascar the question of land use rights and land ownership is a major barrier to developing agriculture in Madagascar. This barrier is not specific to this region.

The baseline scenario and associated projects

Agricultural and rural development ongoing and baseline activities: A series of local, national and international actors support programmes and projects related to developing agriculture and rural development. The most important of these activities are described in the Table in section A2 below. The key actors are: Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Livestock; Ministry of Land Use Planning; Ministry of Decentralization; Ministry of Water Resources; Local technical support services affiliates of national Ministries; Bongolava Regional Governor's Office; Bongolava Regional Development Department; District Chief's Office; Commune Governments; The African Development Bank; and The Indian Ocean Commission.

In the baseline, these actions focus on food security and income generation; they do not focus sufficiently on conservation agriculture or on sustainable land management (see description in A2 below).

Baseline to support to sustainable land management and conservation agriculture: As described in the previous sections, land degradation is a major issue in Bongolava and indeed across the entire mid-west grasslands. Although these forms of land degradation were identified in the UNCCD National Action Programme (NAP, 2003), the mid-west grasslands were not identified as a critical area in the NAP. Hence, there have been very few activities within the framework of the UNCCD to address land degradation in Bongolava.

There have been, however, a series of pertinent projects and initiatives, both in Bongolava and other relevant regions. These projects have focused on developing conservation agriculture and developing integrated agriculture/livestock raising/sylvicultural production systems. A key driver of this work has been the Madagascar Direct Sowing Group (GSDM), often with the financial support of the French Government and technical support of CIRAD³, but also with support from IFAD and from the World Bank. The GSDM is a mechanism to promote cooperation, to share resources and research, to facilitate lesson learning and promote upscaling. The GSDM includes both national and international actors. In recent years it has promoted objectives such as:

- Developing agricultural production and farmers' incomes;
- Protecting the environment through sustainable production systems;
- Creating the conditions for the sustainable support for the wide dissemination of 'direct sowing techniques' through organizational support; and
- Promoting equity by integrating the needs of the poorest and most marginalized from the outset.

Despite these initiatives, the Bongolava Region has not benefitted substantially from capacity building, nor from financial investment, nor from dedicated research. It has not been possible to design and develop sustainable agricultural practices for the ecological and socio-economic conditions in Bongolava. As a result, in the baseline, unsustainable natural resource management practices will continue to predominate in the Region. This, and the continued growing demographic pressure in the baseline, will lead to further land degradation and further negative socio-economic and ecological impacts.

The proposed alternative scenario

GEF support will catalyse a coordinated approach to defining, piloting and replicating sustainable land-use systems and practices that are adapted to the ecological and socio-economic conditions in Bongolava, and that lead to increased productivity, increased revenues and improved status of natural resources. The practices will also facilitate the resolution of conflicts. GEF support will catalyse the coordinated involvement and investment of members of the GSDM leading to an overall sizeable intervention that can make a real difference. GEF support will also facilitate upscaling and dissemination by integrating the sustainable practices into the large baseline of agriculture and rural development projects.

The project will focus primarily in seven representative communes in Tsiroanomandidy District, but will also work with concerned stakeholders up through the administrative levels (District, Region and National). GEF support will lead to three Outcomes in three Components:

The first Outcome will be *all concerned local stakeholders are able and committed to implementing sustainable land management (SLM) measures*. This will cover the seven communes. This Outcome focusses on the necessary

³ A French research centre working with developing countries to tackle international agricultural and development issues.

institutional development, capacity building, data collection, analysis and participatory planning that will form the basis for the design of the technical interventions under Outcome 2. This will include the establishment/support of organizational structures in each commune, and the development of a commune plans of action (Implementation Plans) to be implemented through Outcome 2. These will focus on land conservation and productivity and will be fully integrated into existing and pipeline Commune Development Plans (PCD) and Regional Development Plans (PRD).

The second Outcome will be *land degradation stopped and living conditions improved in the project intervention area*. This will cover the seven communes. Initially this will support urgent priorities identified in Outcome 1 – with likely a focus on urgent measures to meet energy and water needs. Next, there will be two parallel sets of activities. The first will be the piloting of agricultural, silvicultural and livestock raising practices that are socially, environmentally and economically sustainable. This will draw from the previous work of GSDM and the direct sowing measures. It may include new practices, new crops, diversification, implementing land/soil conservation measures, implementing water conservation, etc. Integrated pest and fertilizer management will be introduced. Through this participatory process, the capacity of local people to adapt and manage their own agricultural development will be built – to increase their own revenues in a socially sustainable manner whilst maintaining ecological integrity. These practices will be focused around conservation agriculture through *direct sowing* onto permanently covered land techniques. In addition, this may include introducing new crops (including cash crops), integrated pest management, integrated fertilizer management, improving grazing, crop diversification, implementing land/soil conservation measures, implementing water conservation measures, implementing measures that help climate change adaptation, carbon storage, valorizing biodiversity, etc.

The practices introduced (previous paragraph) will take at least two years to yield results in terms of revenue – possibly four. In the meantime, it will be necessary for the project to provide socio-economic support to the commune. This will be met through the second set of activities.

Finally, the project will also establish a participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental and socio-economic parameters in each commune.

The third Outcome will be *project successes are made permanent and replicated*. This will focus on obtaining district, regional and even national commitment to the replication of project successes, replication to other communes and districts. Moreover, the general lessons learnt under the project may be applicable to other countries – and these will also be captured. Actions may include multi-media lesson storage, lobbying, public awareness raising and strategising. A large scale dissemination conference will be held. The baseline agriculture and rural development projects (see Table in A2) will serve as vehicles for the dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices.

The incremental cost reasoning and expected baseline contributions

The members of the GSDM will provide the co-finance. GEF and co-finance funding will be merged to jointly support the outcomes and the objectives. Given that the project will lead to environmental, global environment and social benefits, the incremental cost reasoning is based on the sliding scale approach, whereby GEF contributes approximately 20% of the overall budget, and co-financing contributes approximately 80%.

Scenario without the GEF investment: The baseline consists mostly of work by the GSDM members, as described in the previous sections. This baseline work has a strong focus on national as well as global benefits. In the baseline, this work is insufficient to protect the land, or to create biodiversity and carbon benefits. As a result, the land continues to degrade, some biodiversity is lost, and carbon storage opportunities are missed.

Scenario with the GEF investment: GEF funds will build on this baseline. GEF funds will provide a catalyst to develop a coherent and coordinated approach to develop conservation agriculture across Bongolava. The result will be ecological integrity, increased revenue and decreased conflicts.

Global environmental benefits

The Project is directly in line with the objectives of the UNCCD, and Madagascar's reports to the UNCCD. In particular, it will contribute to implementation of UNCCD's 10-year strategy: "*The 10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008–2018)*". This proposed Project has been

designed to contribute to all four strategic objectives of this 10-year strategy (i.e. to improve the living conditions of affected populations; to improve the condition of affected ecosystems; to generate global benefits through effective implementation of the UNCCD, and; to mobilize resources to support implementation of the Convention through building effective partnerships between national and international actors). Moreover, the Project’s internal strategy is based on the operational objectives of the UNCCD 10-year strategy.

The Bongolava region also has important habitat for globally important biodiversity and captures significant amounts of carbon. The Project’s intervention will indirectly lead to a lessening of the pressure on biodiversity, and should lead to improved carbon capture and storage.

The project will also lead to many social benefits. It is intervening in one of the poorest regions of Madagascar, and will have a positive impact on income and there by help overcome poverty and associated social problems, such as poor health inadequate education facilities, etc. Moreover, the project will direct help overcome the existing conflicts between herders and farmers, and amongst different herders. This will facilitate social harmony and improve quality of life for the population in the district.

Innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up

The Project includes some innovative features. It combines scientific and participatory approaches in ways that have not been attempted in this part of Madagascar before. It develops a multi-level approach, strategically targeting decision-makers at household, commune, district and regional level. It also promotes an adaptive management approach, thereby enabling farmers to be able to adapt to new challenges and opportunities in the future, including climate change.

The project design will include strategies and activities to ensure sustainability. First it adopts a participatory approach to ensure the full engagement of local people. Second, it involves and influences decision-makers at various levels, to optimize the chances of sustainable follow-up. Third, it includes significant capacity building – in fact the entire project constitutes a ‘capacity building by doing’. Finally, it has activities focusing on resource mobilization and on sustainably increasing the revenue of local stakeholders.

The project approach can be scaled up across Bongolava (to all 26 communes). Some elements of the project may be replicable in other neighboring regions, and the project includes the necessary actions to identify these possibilities for replication and make them realities.

A.2. Stakeholders

The project will be implemented in line with established Government of Madagascar and UNEP procedures. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MEF) will take overall responsibility as the Executing Agency of the project, and for the project success. The activities on the ground will be implemented with the support of the National Association of Environmental Actions (ANAE), which is a recognized and one of the leading CSOs in the country. ANAE has been active in the promotion of sustainable land management and environment restoration for many years. ANAE will support management and will establish the necessary operational planning and management mechanisms to oversee project inputs, activities and outputs. UNEP will support the MEF and ANAE as necessary. ANAE has many years of experience in implementing internationally funded projects, notably many financed by the French government. ANAE co-financing in Bongolava Region is estimated at US\$200,000 over five years. The PPG process will be used to further define the management, coordination and consultation mechanisms.

The Madagascar Direct Sowing Group (GSDM) will serve as the project’s Steering Committee. As such, it will be responsible for approving major project inputs and outputs as well as supporting coordination.

Other key stakeholders include:

Stakeholder	Mandate and Baseline Project	Role in Project
Madagascar Direct Sowing Group (GSDM)	The Group membership includes all key national and international organizations involved in conservation agriculture in Madagascar. Individual members have related activities in baseline.	In the project, the GSDM will support coordination and information exchange, and some national GSDM members will benefit from capacity building. Most will

	<p>There is also the French Government supported Project: “Supporting the dissemination of agricultural conservation techniques” (2004-2010), with an estimated co-financing of US\$200,000 in Bongolava Region.</p>	provide co-finance.
General Directorate for Environment (DGE) in MEF	<p>Overall responsibility for environmental protection in Madagascar. DGE is also GEF Operational Focal Point.</p> <p>No specific baseline project.</p>	In the project, DGE will support planning, and may benefit from capacity building, and will help disseminate project results.
General Directorate for Forests in MEF	<p>Overall responsibility for forestry in Madagascar.</p> <p>No specific baseline project.</p>	In the project, it will support planning, and may benefit from capacity building, and will help disseminate project results.
Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Livestock; Ministry of Land Use Planning; Ministry of Decentralization; and Ministry of Water Resources.	<p>These ministries all have responsibilities for sectors related to sustainable land management. They are to implement related rural development programmes in Bongolava, and their regional technical services support capacity development and provide technical support to communes.</p> <p>MOA General Secretariat is implementing the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Training, financed by IFAD, and the Agricultural Productivity Improvement Programme. Co-financing in Bongolava Region is estimated at US\$2million.</p> <p>MOA Agricultural Production Department is supporting agricultural support services and capacity building, estimated co-financing investment in Bongolava Region is US\$200,000.</p> <p>MOA Department of Local Support is supporting Agricultural Service Centers and the Project PROJERMO (supporting young entrepreneurs in the mid-West) and the Project AROPA (supporting professional organizations, financed by IFAD). Estimated co-financing to Bongolava Region is US\$1million.</p> <p>Ministry of Livestock Raising is supporting fodder production and Zebu meat production. Estimated co-financing in Bongolava is US\$45,500.</p>	Each of these ministries may benefit from capacity building under the project, and will help disseminate project results.
Local technical support services affiliates (DREF /DIREL- DIRAGRI)	The local technical services supervise and coordinate technical support activities in Bongolava. Estimated in-kind co-financing is US\$100,000.	May benefit from capacity building under the project, and will help disseminate project results.
Bongolava Region Departments for Environment and Forestry (BDREF)	Responsible for implementing environment and forestry programmes in the Bongolava administrative Region. Responsible for coordination and supervision of many technical projects. Estimated in-kind co-financing is US\$100,000.	In the project, BDREF will be involved in planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of project activities and will benefit from capacity building.

Bongolava Regional Governor (directly attached to Madagascar's President)	Responsible for overall development planning and decisions in the Bongolava region. No specific baseline activity.	In the project, the office will support planning, project monitoring and evaluation of achievements and may benefit from capacity building, and will help disseminate project results.
Bongolava Regional Development Department	Provides support to the Governor on development planning, and takes the lead in developing short, medium and long term Bongolava regional development plans. No specific baseline activity.	In the project, this department will support planning, monitoring and evaluation of project outputs and benefit from capacity building, and will help disseminate project results.
Tsiroanomandidy District Chief	Responsible for overall development planning and decisions in the District. Mostly administrative support. Estimated in-kind co-financing is US\$50,000.	In the project, this office will support planning, monitoring and evaluation, will benefit from capacity building, and will take a lead in disseminating project results.
Commune level governments.	Undertake awareness raising, project implementation and monitoring/evaluation of projects. Mostly logistical and administrative support. Estimated in-kind co-financing is US\$50,000.	These offices will support project planning, monitoring and evaluation, and will benefit from capacity building,
Agricultural Service Centers (Bongolava and national).	Play a lead role in supporting production and developing business management capacity, intervening at the district level and below. Not financing any baseline projects.	May provide technical support to the project.
National Environment Office (ONE)	ONE is responsible for environmental monitoring and for supervising the environmental impact procedures in Madagascar. Not financing any baseline projects.	They may implement some project activities related to developing environment indicators, monitoring and providing related technical support to the project stakeholders.
Grassroots Organizations/CBO	These are local opinion leaders and drivers of change. Not financing any baseline projects.	In the Project they will play a key role in identifying and ensuring the role of local communities in the project execution.
African Development Bank	Finances and technically supports rural and agricultural development project, typically through a soft-loan agreement, but also through grants. Relevant baseline projects investing in Bongolava Region include PROJERMO and VAHATRA. Total estimated investment as co-financing in the Region is estimated at US\$700,000.	Probably co-financer and supporting dissemination of lessons learnt.
Indian Ocean Commission	Supports food security programmes across the Indian Ocean.	Probably co-financer and supporting dissemination of lessons learnt.

	One activity focuses on the development and dissemination of conservation agricultural techniques. Total estimated investment as co-financing in the Region is estimated at US\$250,000.	
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A.3. Risks

The following risks have been identified as posing a possible threat to the smooth implementation of the project and/or the project achieving full impacts.

Risk Description	Level	Proposed Measure
Land tenure issues undermine project interventions. Land tenure is a major issue in Bongolava as in much of Madagascar. Insecure and unclear tenure can undermine incentives for improved land management.	Medium	The project will work with all stakeholders – local, national, governmental, non-governmental - to identify land development strategies that are attractive over the long term. The project strategy is designed to circumvent, to the extent possible, challenges caused by inadequate land tenure regimes. It will focus on the many none-tenure barriers, removing these, leading to significant improvements.
Local poverty undermines conservation efforts. Local people are poor. Improved agricultural techniques take several years to produce results, and local people may not be able to wait.	Low - medium	Under Outcome 2, activities will be designed to support local communities during the process of developing new agricultural processes – hence their livelihoods should improve whilst waiting for the improved agricultural techniques to deliver results.
Climate change and climate variability undermine project achievements. The major climate-related threat is seasonal drought, although there are also dangers associated with floods. It may be that drought and or floods lead to problems that the techniques introduced by the project cannot overcome.	Low - medium	The project aims to introduce an <i>adaptive management</i> approach, giving local communities the tools, capacity and information to <i>adapt</i> to change, and to be able to overcome challenging conditions.

A.4. Coordination

MEF, as the Executing Agency of the project, will take a leading role in ensuring coordination with all related government and non-government initiatives. MEF will ensure this project is fully linked into the process to prepare and implement the updated UNCCD NAP. Notably, the updated UNCCD NAP steering committee will be regularly informed of project progress and project achievements, and will therefore play a role in disseminating project successes. ANAE will play a role as the national implementation partner on a day-to-day basis, of ensuring coordination with both government and non-government agencies, and project execution on the ground with local stakeholders.

A Project Coordination Cell will be established in Tsiroanomandidy District. This cell will be responsible for preparing weekly and monthly workplans (to be approved by the project authorities) and for supporting and monitoring project activities.

The Madagascar Direct Sowing Group (GSDM) will play the role of project steering committee and as such will ensure coordination with all activities of members of GSDM, and therefore with the majority of related governmental and non-governmental initiatives.

Specifically, the project will be coordinated with the following GEF supported projects:

- *Stabilizing rural populations through improved systems for SLM and local governance of lands in southern Madagascar* (UNDP, MSP under SIP/Terrafrica). This project, to be implemented by WWF, is about to

commence its activities. It has a similar approach to the current proposed project, but is implemented in a very different ecological and socio-economic region. Lessons will be exchanged with the current proposed project;

- *Irrigation and Watershed Management Project* (World Bank, also under SIP/Terrafrica, approved in 2006, started in 2008, and after a delay is due to restart activities). This also takes place in a different ecological and socio-economic region. One of the three components is watershed management, and the current proposed project will exchange lessons learnt.

Finally, the Government of Madagascar is currently launching a series of GEF projects under GEF 5. MEF and DGE, with support from UNEP, will ensure coordination and synergies across all these GEF 5 projects. These projects include:

- Strengthening the Network of 'New Protected Areas' in Madagascar, Notably New Protected Areas with Mangrove Ecosystems
- Sustainable Wetlands Management in Madagascar;
- Conservation of Key Threatened, Endemic and Economically Valuable Species in Madagascar.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH:

B.1.National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable, i.e. NAPAs, NAPs, NBSAPs, National Communications, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc:

The Project contributes to the implementation of the following national sustainable development plans and strategies:

- National Action Plan for Rural Development (1999) ;
- Madagascar Action Plan 2007 – 2012 (MAP), which, given the current political impasse, is still the valid national socio-economic development plan. This is focussed around 8 commitments, of which the seventh is “Madagascar will be a world leader in the development and implementation of environmental best-practice.... We will become a “green island” again...”. Under this, the second challenge is ‘*reduce the processes of resource degradation*’, and two of the key strategies are ‘*manage deforestation and fire damage*’ (third) and ‘*promote reforestation and restoration of natural habitats*’ (fourth);
- Land Policy (2006);
- National Environmental Policies, notably as reflected in the National Environmental Action Plan and the 3rd Phase of the National Environmental Program;
- Environmental Charter (Updated in 2012).

The Project contributes to the implementation of the following land management and land degradation plans and policies:

- National Action Programme (NAP) to implement the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (2003);
- The National Strategy for Disaster Risk Management;
- National reports to the UNCCD, notably the 5th (2011), which identified that, despite the many steps taken, many key areas suffering from land degradation have not benefitted from many interventions to improve land management. Bongolava is identified as a region in need of support;

The Government of Madagascar, together with stakeholders, is currently updating the UNCCD NAP. Current discussions focus on identifying the priority issues and priority intervention areas for the updated NAP. It is anticipated that the current proposed project will be a key project contributing to the implementation of the updated NAP.

The Project also contributes to the implementation of the Bongolava Regional Rural Development Plan (BPRDR, 2007). BPRDR has five objectives, of which the fourth is *Promoting natural resources and conserving the natural factors of production*. This project will contribute to all six strategic axes under this fourth objective.

Finally, periodically, the Regional authorities and ONE produce a Bongolava region state of the environment report. This report looks at water, land and soil, climate change and biodiversity. The 2008 report finds that each of these factors is under threat, and recommends the implementation of measures such as the current proposed project to

address those threats.

B.2. GEF Focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities:

This Project will contribute primarily to Objective 1 (*Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem services sustaining the livelihoods of local communities*) of the Land Degradation focal area, as follows: firstly, it will lead to *improved agricultural management* (LD outcome 1.2). As a result, in the 7 targeted communes in Bongolava, there will be a significant increase in the area of land with sustained productivity and there will be reduced vulnerability of communities to climate variability. Secondly, it will contribute to *a sustained flow of services in agro-ecosystems* (LD outcome 1.2) in the seven communes and beyond. These services include agricultural services, pastoral services, but also ecosystem services (carbon capture and biodiversity). The improved conservation agricultural practices will lead to this increased flow of services. Finally, it should lead to *increased investments in SLM* (LD outcome 1.4). Notably, the Implementation Plans developed under the project should help mobilize investment, and the activities under Outcome 3 should help finance replication in other communes and districts across the Region.

B.3. The GEF Agency's comparative advantage for implementing this project:

UNEP has a history of working with Madagascar on various GEF and non-GEF activities. UNEP has worked with the Government of Madagascar on five national GEF projects, mainly Enabling Activities, across all Focal Areas and on ten regional GEF projects covering all GEF focal areas. On UNCCD implementation, UNEP has supported the country during the PRAIS project, and the subsequent good working relationship led to the request of the Government of Madagascar to UNEP to support development of the present UNEP/GEF project. Currently UNEP is supporting the Government of Madagascar in the implementation of the UNCCD Enabling Activity related to the NAP alignment and reporting. Madagascar is considered to be among the countries going through the single country approach in order to assess the impact of the funding level of GEF supported EA. UNEP is also currently supporting the Government of Madagascar in the implementation of Montreal Protocol through Ozone Programme. In addition, the UN country team is currently developing a new UNDAF, and UNEP (through the Regional Office for Africa) is supporting the UNCT to mainstream environment and climate change issues into the UNDAF.

The project is fully in line with the UNEP role of catalysing the development of scientific and technical analysis and advancing environmental management in GEF-financed activities. UNEP provides guidance on relating the GEF-financed activities to global, regional and national environmental assessments, policy frameworks and plans, and to international environmental agreements.

More specifically, the project lies within the following areas recognized by GEF as areas where UNEP has a comparative advantage:

- *Sound science for national, regional and global decision-makers*, notably by strengthening science-to-policy linkages and by strengthening environmental monitoring and assessment;
- *Technical assistance and capacity building at country level*, notably by strengthening technology assessment, by demonstration and through innovation, and also by directly developing capacity;
- *Knowledge management*, including through awareness raising and advocacy.

The project is consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the current UNEP Medium Term Strategy (2010-2013) and fits under the Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programs.


UNEP has also recently adopted a Regional Focal Point in dealing with GEF issues. The approach uses identified staff to give support and guidance to a number of countries in relation to GEF initiatives. In addition, UNEP is opening a Liaison Office in Madagascar that will facilitate coordination, project implementation and contacts with partners at the country level. UNEP HQ is also located within the same sub-region, thus allowing a cost-effective support and regular country visits by UNEP HQ staff. Several branches of UNEP and associated organizations will contribute to the design and implementation of the project, including: UNEP/DEPI; UNEP/DLC; UNEP/GEF and UNEP/AEWA.

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter\(s\)](#) with this template. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
RALALAHARISOA Christine Edmée	General Director of Environment	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS	02-07-2013

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF policies and procedures and meets the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF criteria for project identification and preparation.					
Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
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