



REQUEST FOR CEO APPROVAL
PROJECT TYPE: MEDIUM SIZE PROJECT
TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF TF

For more information about GEF, visit TheGEF.org

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Participatory Sustainable Land Management in the Grassland Plateaus of Western Madagascar			
Country(ies):	Madagascar	GEF Project ID: ¹	5354
GEF Agency(ies):	UNEP	GEF Agency Project ID:	01077
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Ecology, Environment and Forests (MEEF) through National Association of Environmental Actions (ANAE), as co-executing partner.	Re-Submission Date:	August 5, 2016
GEF Focal Area (s):	Land Degradation	Project Duration(Months)	48
Name of Parent Program (if applicable):		Project Agency Fee (\$):	150,568
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For SFM/REDD+ <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For SGP <input type="checkbox"/> ➤ For PPP <input type="checkbox"/> 		

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	TA/INV	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Confirmed Cofinancing (\$)
1. Institutional development and capacity building	TA	1.1. All the communal structures and stakeholders are capacitated and have decided to implement sustainable land management (SLM) measures <u>Indicators:</u> Communal SLM implementation plans with clear identification of land tenure issues, the role of women approved at communal, district, and regional levels,	1.1.1. Effective participatory SLM committees established in participating communes with conflict-management mechanisms and adequate representation of women and vulnerable groups 1.1.2. Participatory diagnostics for an improved understanding of the threats,	GEF TF	296,804	700,000

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC.

		with necessary resource commitment and priority measures effectively implemented.	constraints, and opportunities related to SLM in all 7 participating communes 1.1.3. Adaptive SLM implementation plans for each 7 participating commune.			
2. Implementation of sustainable land management practices	TA	<p>2.1. Land degradation reduced and living conditions improved across the project's intervention areas</p> <p><u>Indicators:</u> At least 42 450 Ha of hectares brought under SLM.</p> <p>At least 5670 of households with special emphasis on women representation trained and are implementing SLM</p> <p>Number of SLM technologies with impacts on nethouseholds incomes in participating communes</p> <p>1 demonstration/ learning site per commune with women involvement and piloting SLM measures as appropriate for agriculture, pastoralism, and energy (including protection channels,</p>	<p>2.1.1. Agreed urgent measures implemented in each of the participating commune</p> <p>2.1.2. Household farming activities reinforced to support SLM</p> <p>2.1.3. Local land users and land management committees trained in SLM, conflict management, and small sustainable agricultural business development</p> <p>2.1.4. Concrete, appropriate ecofriendly SLM measures for agriculture, pastoralism, and energy production demonstrated and adopted (As identified in Table 5: CEO ER)</p> <p>2.1.5. Participatory SLM monitoring and evaluation</p>	GEF TF	972,540	3,995,800

		contouring, dam reinforcement, agroforestry, and afforestation)	system covering agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic parameters.			
3. Knowledge management	TA	3.1. Stakeholders are committed to SLM at all levels <u>Indicators:</u> Number of project publications and or materials documenting lessons learn Number of farmers including at least 40% women in neighboring communes adopting SLM practices Number of measures taken to incorporate and disseminate the SLM practices in subsequent Bongolava Regional Development Plans	3.1.1. Project achievements released in the form of video, manuals, guidelines, maps, etc. 3.1.2. Strategy to expand SLM measures across Bongolava Region. 3.1.3. Broad and high-level commitment to expanding and replicating SLM measures.	GEF TF	178,082	450,000
Subtotal					1,447,426	5,145,800
Project management Cost (PMC) ²				GEF TF	137,505	200,000
Total project costs					1,584,931	5,345,800

A. FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK³

Focal Area Objectives	Expected FA Outcomes	Expected FA Outputs	Trust Fund	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)
Land Degradation 1	Agriculture and Rangeland Systems: Maintain or improve flows of agro-ecosystem services to sustain	Country level policy, legal and regulatory frameworks that integrate SLM principles developed	GEF TF	1,584,931	5,345,800

² PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project grant amount in Table D below.

³ Refer to the [Focal Area Results Framework and LDCF/SCCF Framework](#) when completing Table A.

	livelihoods of local communities.				
Total project costs				1,584,931	5,345,800

B. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED COFINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY SOURCE AND BY NAME (\$)

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier (source)	Type of Cofinancing	Cofinancing Amount (\$)
National government	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests (MEEMF) through the Secretariate General (SG)	In-Kind	400,000
National government	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests (MEEMF) through the General Environmental Directory (GED)	In- Kind	1,500,000
National government	Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests (MEEMF) through the General Environmental Directory (GED)/ PIP Investment project	Cash	500,000
National government	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) including GSDM co-financing	Cash	1,206,000
National government	Ministry of Livestock (MINELPA)	In-kind	17,000
Local government	Bongolava Region	In-kind	400,000
Local government	Communal of Mahasolo	In-kind	8,100
Local government	Communal of Fihaonana	In-kind	8,000
Local government	Communal of Ankadinondry	In-kind	8,000
Local government	Communal of Ambatolamy	In-kind	5,800
Local government	Communal of Ambataratabe	In-kind	6,000
Local government	Communal of Tsinjoarivo Imanga	In-kind	7,900
NGO	FOFIFA	In-kind	350,000
NGO	ANAE	Cash	300,000
NGO	ANAE	In-kind	629,000
Total Co-financing			5,345,800

D. TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY, FOCAL AREA AND COUNTRY¹

GEF Agency	Type of Trust Fund	Focal Area	Country Name/ Global	(in \$)		
				Grant Amount (a)	Agency Fee (b) ²	Total c=a+b
UNEP	GEF TF	Land Degradation	Madagascar	1,584,931	150,568	1,735,499
Total Grant Resources				1,584,931	150,568	1,735,499

¹ In case of a single focal area, single country, single GEF Agency project, and single trust fund project, no need to provide information for this table. PMC amount from Table B should be included proportionately to the focal area amount in this table.

² Indicate fees related to this project.

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS: TOR APPENDIX 7

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	0	0	0
National/Local Consultants:	114,973	31,862	146,835
Total	114,973	31,862	146,835

G. DOES THE PROJECT INCLUDE A “NON-GRANT” INSTRUMENT? No

(If non-grant instruments are used, provide in Annex D an indicative calendar of expected reflows to your Agency and to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund.)

Appendix N: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFD	French Development Agency
ANAE	National Association of Environmental Actions
BDPA	Office for the Development of Agricultural Production
BVPI	Watershed and Irrigated Perimeters
CIRAD	International Research Center for Agricultural Development
CNULDD	United Nations Convention on the Fight against Desertification and Degradation
DIREAU	General Directorate of Water
DIRTOPO	Regional Directorate of Topography
DNP	National Project Directors
DRDR	Regional Directorate of Rural Development

DREEF	Regional Directorate of Environment, Ecology and Forest
DRS	Soil Protection and Restoration
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FEM	Global Fund for Environment
FEO	State Farm Omby
FOFIFA	Foibe Fikarohana momba ny Fiompiana sy ny Fambolena
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
GSDM	Madagascar Direct Sowing Group
LRI	Radio Isotope Laboratory
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MARP	Rapid Appraisal Participatory Method
MEEF	Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forest
MINEAU	Ministry of Water
MINELPA	Ministry of Livestock and Animal Production
MO	Organic Matter
NPK	Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium (chemical symbol)
ODEMO	Middle West Development Operation
ONE	National Office for the Environment
ONG	Non-Governmental Organization
PAN	National Action Plan
PCD	Municipal Development Plan
PLAE	Anti-Erosion Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
PRD	Regional Development Plan
PRODER	Renewable energy development program
SCV	System in Vegetation Cover
SG	General Secretariat
SOMASAK	Malagasy Society for the Development of Sakay
TDR	Terms of Reference

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN OF THE ORIGINAL PIF⁴

A.1 National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions, if applicable—i.e., NAPAS, NAPs, NBSAPs, national communications, TNAs, NCSA, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, Biennial Update Reports, etc.

Since the PIF, the Malagasy government has aligned its National Action Plan (NAP) to the Ten-Year Strategy of the United Nations' Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)⁵, and the relations between the proposed project and several additional national programs has been further developed. The following section outlines the primary relevant programs.

The project's operational elements facilitate the NAP by (i) developing the capacity of policy makers and land users to manage land sustainably, (ii) establishing an appropriate knowledge-management system, and (iii) implementing emergency measures to counteract land degradation. The alignment finalization of the NAP demonstrated once again the will of Malagasy government to fight against the land degradation and desertification.

The project will improve the living conditions of affected populations by mitigating the socio-economic and environmental vulnerabilities of these populations to climate change (Strategic Objective 1; SO1). It will also strengthen productive capacity and the goods and services provided by improving the condition of land resources (SO2) through the application of an agroecological approach. Thus, these resources will be exploited in a sustainable fashion and biodiversity will be preserved or regenerated (SO3). The project will also allow the establishment of a local permanent institutional structure, following a participatory process tailored to the implementation of measures for sustainable land management (SO4).

The framework is also in line with Madagascar's National Development Plan (NDP)—adopted in January, 2015—through its five strategic axes for action, which advocate good governance and inclusive, sustainable growth.

Multi-stakeholder discussions during the project-preparation phase have expanded the number of national policies relevant to the proposed project. The project contributes to the implementation of national plans and strategies for sustainable development as follows:

1. **National Environmental Policy.** Madagascar's Environmental Charter⁶ (Law No. 90-033 of 21 December 1990) and its amendments define the National Environmental Policy and have dictated much of the national policies. The promotion of sustainable development, better management of natural resources, and the resolution of land issues are among the plan's objectives that are favorable to the fight against land degradation, desertification, and drought. Soil erosion and the loss of vegetative cover are also mentioned among environmental issues. In the three environmental programs—PE I, PE II, and PE III—the fight against land degradation through watershed management and the conservation of water and soil are listed among sector-based strategies.

⁴ For questions A.1 –A.7 in Part II, if there are no changes since PIF and if not specifically requested in the review sheet at PIF stage, then no need to respond, please enter “NA” after the respective question.

⁵ The NAP aligns with the 2008-2018 ten-year strategy and was validated on October 28, 2014. GoM expects to release the final version of the NAP by end-2016. The aligned NAP was validated in October 2014 and it was adopted on 28 April 2015 following the decree 2015-547)

⁶ According to Article 2 of the Charter, “environment refers to the set of natural and artificial settings, including human settings and the social and cultural factors that are of interest to national development national.”

2. **The Agricultural Sector Policy.** The proposed project is aligned with (i) the Letter of Development Policy, (ii) the Rural Policy Brief for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries Sector, (iii) the Sector-based Program on Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (PSAEP; signed June 13, 2014), (iv) the Letter of Development Policy for Watershed and Irrigated Perimeters (BVPI), (v) the National Strategy for Rice farming Development (NRDS), (vi) the National Fertilizer Strategy, and (vi) the National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Training (SNFAR).

For example, the project aligns well with the Policy Guidance Note for the Sector-based Program on Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries (NOP PSAEP; ratified in October, 2014), which supports:

- (i) expansion of production areas while ensuring the sustainability of resources, and
- (ii) improved productivity through the development of applied research and the promotion of sustainable systems and competitive production.

Similarly, the project aligns with the Letter of Development Policy and Irrigated Perimeters Basins (BVPI), which aims to:

- (i) increase the productivity of irrigated areas and surrounding watershed,
- (ii) improve compensation for producers' work and develop alternative sources of income, and
- (iii) operate in a sustainable manner the infrastructure and resources in soil and water.

Finally, the project aligns with the Orientation Policy for Zebu Breeding, which defines a strategy for managing pastures.

3. **The National Forest Policy and Strategy for the Sustainable Management of Biodiversity**, which is currently being updated in partnership with FAO, is clearly linked to sustainable land management (e.g., via habitat preservation and restoration) and aims to:
 - (i) stop the process of forest degradation,
 - (ii) better manage forest resources for a better balance between resources and needs, and
 - (iii) increase the area and forest potential.
4. **The National Policy for Disaster Risk Management**—as implemented via the National Strategy for Disaster and Risk Management (NSDRM; currently being updated)—considers drought a natural hazard in the country. Despite some inconsistencies and slow development, the NSDRM is associated with drought-related initiatives, such as establishing an early warning system for drought risk and empowering people affected by desertification and drought.
5. **The National Policy on Land**—as implemented via the National Land Program—and the 2003 NAP identified land security among their priorities. Although considerable progress has been made regarding land registrations and cadasters, capacity-building is still needed to address the prevalent and problematic issue of land-grabbing. A policy reform program is now under development.
6. **The National Strategy for Research**, since May 2013, has had among its thematic priorities the promotion of sustainable agriculture and sustainable production and uses of energy and water.
7. **The National Energy Policy** aims to ensure a sufficient, reliable, low-cost energy supply through the promotion of renewable energy, reforestation for energy, and improved techniques of carbonization. The promotion of efficient practices partially meets the UNCCD's requirement on training and technology for the use of substitution renewable energy sources.

8. **The National Educational Policy on Environment for Sustainable Development** pertains to (i) public education and awareness, (ii) pollution and waste, (iii) the environmental hazards of mining, (iv) deforestation (including bush fires and illegal logging), (v) soil degradation, (vi) desertification, (vii) rational natural resources management, and (viii) management of marine and coastal areas (including the fight against marine and coastal erosion).
9. **The Policy on Integrated Management of Water Resources in Madagascar** helps to (i) ensure that water needs are met sustainably, (ii) establish the institutional framework for sustainable and integrated management of water resources, (iii) implement the Water Code, (iv) improve knowledge about water resources, and (v) strengthen the capacity of management structures and actors.
10. **The national strategy for the fight against climate change** advocates actions to ensure the resilience of the population through adaptation, namely the dissemination of technical and agro ecological and also mitigation through the concept of REDD + (Reducing Emissions due to Degradation and Deforestation).
11. The project will also help in the implementation of the **Regional Plan of Rural Development for Bongolava (2007)**, which has five goals, the fourth of which is the promotion of natural resources and the conservation of natural factors of production such as land and water. This project will contribute to the implementation of the four strategic axes of that fourth goal. The process of updating the plan began in the 1st week of August 2014⁷. The consistency of this project with respect to this plan will be detailed in the implementation of the project. According to the last information of 30 June 2016 from Bongolava Region, the finalization of the update will be scheduled for the end of 2016.
12. The project will contribute to outcome 1 of the newly adopted **United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015–2019**: Vulnerable populations in intervention zones have access to income opportunities and employment, improve their resilience, and contribute to inclusive and equitable growth for sustainable development. The project will contribute to this outcome by supporting socioeconomic activities, strengthening organizations, and building capacity.

The legal framework of actions is presented in the table below:

Table 1: Legal framework.

Fields	Title (Policy, Program)	Legislation/ Features	Observations/ Comments
Specific to the fight against desertification	Ratification of UNCCD	Law No. 022.69 of the September 4, 1996, and decree No. 772.97 of June 10, 1997	
	NAP aligned to fight desertification	Decree No 2015-747 of 28 April 2015 fixing the NAP for the fight against desertification and aligned to the ten-year Strategic Plan 2008-2018	
Environment	Charter of the Environment	Law No. 90.033 of the 21 december 1990	
	Letter of environmental policy	2003	Soil degradation, water issues and the degradation of marine

⁷ Information collected during the workshop to validate the domestic portion of the project document, on August 5, 2014.

Fields	Title (Policy, Program)	Legislation/ Features	Observations/ Comments
			and coastal zones are mentioned as components of the environmental issue. Promotion of conservation and sustainable use of waters and soils
	Policy statement	January 2010	Management of the different sources of soil pollution, fight against bushfires and forest fires Control over soil erosion
	MECIE	Decree No. 99-954 of the December 15, 1999, modified by the decree No. 2004-167 of February 3 rd , 2004	Prevention of environmental risks in the public and private investments and fight against pollutions Respect of the environmental terms and conditions
	Forest policy	Decree No. 97-1200 of October 2, 1997	
	Forest legislation	Law 97/017 of 7/16/97	
	System for forest exploitation	Decree No. 97-782 September 16, 1998	
	Local community management of wild fires	Decree No. 99/951 August 15, 1998	Fire management
	Reforestation	Decree No. 2000-383	Reforestation
Agriculture	Letter of rural development policy	2001/2004	The third orientation of the document aims to “enhance and promote agricultural production with optimal use and sustainable management of resources and infrastructure”
	Sector-based Program in Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	Compact signed 13 June 2014	
	Letter of policy of development for Catchment Areas and Irrigated Perimeters (BVPI)	Institutionalization of the National Program Catchment Areas – Irrigated Perimeters in September 2006 (Decree No. 2006 – 644 of 9/5/2006).	Three technical components: CA landscape development, Sustainable systems for agricultural production, and Improvement of the Irrigated Perimeters
	National strategy of rice-farming development (SNDR)		Strategy launched in 2008 to ensure the development of rainfed rice, conserve natural

Fields	Title (Policy, Program)	Legislation/ Features	Observations/ Comments
			resources and reduce the practice of "Tavy".
	National Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Training (SNFAR)	Adopted by the Government Council in April 2012	This strategy is designed to help ensure that future generations inherit a healthy soil, water, and biodiversity.
Mining	Mining policy statement	Decree No. 98-394 of May 28, 1998, defining the mining sector policy in Madagascar Interministerial Order No. 12032/2000 of November 6, 2000	Regulation of the mining sector for environmental protection Application of the MECIE decree
Industry	Policy management and control of industrial pollution	Law No. 99-021 of August 19, 1999	
Energy	Policy being developed		Promotion of alternative energy
Environmental education/ awareness	National Policy on Education Relating to the Environment relayed by the Education Policy on the Environment for Sustainable Development (PErEDD)	Decree No. 2002 – 751 for the PERE Decree 2013-880 for the PErEDD	
Land	Letter of land policy	May 2005 (validated by the Government)	Land policy affords security and is therefore favorable to agricultural production, management, protection, restoration and renewal of natural resources
Risk and Disaster Management	National strategy of Risk and Disaster Management	2010 Update in progress	Creation of a National Early Warning System
Water	Integrated Management of Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law No. 98,029: Water Code • Decree No. 2003.943: spills, runoff discharges 	

Source⁸

A.2. GEF focal area and/or fund(s) strategies, eligibility criteria and priorities.

No changes from the PIF

⁸ Thematic Assessment report on the United Nations Convention on the Fight against Desertification in Madagascar, by Holy Raharinjanahary, July 2014.

A.3 The GEF Agency's comparative advantage:

No major changes from the PIF. The project remains consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the current UNEP Medium Term Strategy (2014-2017) and related PoW and fits under the Ecosystem Management and Environmental Governance sub-programs. More specifically, it is linked to Expected Accomplishment A of the Ecosystem Management Sub-programme: "Use of the ecosystem approach in countries to maintain ecosystem services and sustainable productivity of terrestrial and aquatic systems is increased." It also links to Expected Accomplishment C of the Environmental Governance Sub-programme: "Countries increasingly mainstream environmental sustainability in national and regional development policies and plans."

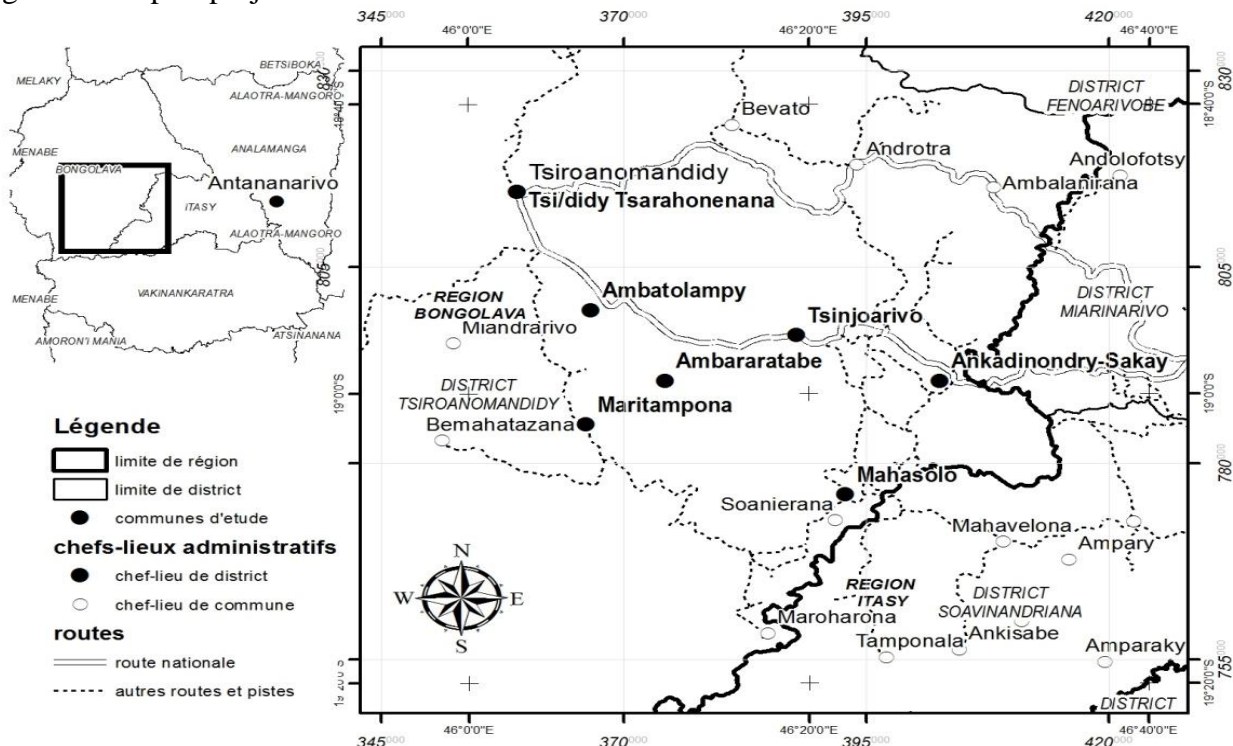
A.4. The baseline project and the problem that it seeks to address:

There have been no major changes in the project's rationale or design; the project is still strongly aligned with the PIF. The following information—gathered and developed during the PPG phase—further clarifies the challenges this project aims to address. Annex A presents the project's logical framework. In brief, the logical framework presents the projects' theory of change, whereby activities produce outputs, leading to outcomes, which result in the project's objective.

Socio-economic conditions

The project will focus primarily in seven representative communes in Tsiroanomandidy District, but will also work with concerned stakeholders up through the district, regional, and national administrative levels. The seven participating communes occupy around 421,900 ha (4,219 square kilometers) and account for 56% of the area of the district of Tsiroanomandidy. The communes comprise 28,376 households and 141,874 people, yielding a lower population density (33.63 people per km²) than the national average (38.5 people per km²).⁹

Figure 1: Map of project areas.



The area's population is very diverse, coming from different migration waves since the beginning of colonization, including three main types: (i) migration from the surrounding areas of Soavinandriana,

⁹ Source: Village workshops organized during the study to assess the ecosystem services, by Raharinjanahary Holy, TSIMAHALAHY Haritiana, RANDRIAMAHALEO Farasoamandimby / PCD / INSTAT 2013

Miarinarivo Arivonimamo early in the twentieth century, (ii) migration is favored by the various agricultural development programs introduced previously by the Government because the economic and agronomic potential of the region is raised, and finally iii) the recent migration is characterized by the coming of migrants from the highlands and from the southwest, and who especially came at the beginning to find work wage-earner before their definitive installation¹⁰.

The vast expanse of previously fertile peneplains attracted migrants, the agronomic potential of the region was estimated between 15 to 20%. However, because of the high intensity of prior migration waves, little if any land is available for settlement, purchase, or use by most recent immigrants. A relatively small number of immigrants from previous waves reserved many areas that they did not (or do not) use, such that the proportion of cultivated area has been fairly small. Cultivable reserves dwindled over time around the settlers' villages, so much that the inheritance system became the method for land acquisition.

Economically, the total income per worker is on average 2 million Ariary with a minimum of hundred thousand Ariary and a maximum exceeding twenty million. The average income level is higher with regard to the minimum wage of a Malagasy ordinary laborer earns which is 1,3 million Ariary. However, the average disposable income per person is 1.1 million Ariary per year remains below the poverty line of 1.25 dollar/person/day (equivalent to 1.37 million Ariary per year).

Cattle husbandry is the most prevalent economic activity in the project-affected communes, but the practice suffers from many problems, such as (i) scarcity of natural pastures that are retreating and degrading due to repeated bushfires, (ii) lack of extension activities on improved techniques, and, since 2009, (iii) increasing armed thefts of cattle by the *dahalo*.

Economic performance is relatively poor because of the high population when compared to available resources. This socio-economic situation is also the result of waves of attacks by the *dahalo*, which have continued to intensify due to political conditions that have disincentivized livestock investments, particularly in cattle, which provide agricultural traction and manure for soil amendments. Therefore, the significant decrease in cattle led to a decrease in cultivated areas, mainly in the *tanety*, which requires substantial additions of organic matter. The same socio-political conditions have also led to the abandonment of isolated villages, causing heavy land use in areas with a semblance of security, including in more secure larger cities.

The few people relying on fish farming and handicrafts are hindered by the scarcity of raw materials (*hisatra*, *satrana*, *vinda*, etc.) linked to the degradation of vegetative cover due to erosion. Regional agriculture is heavily dependent on rainfall and farming techniques, but is poorly developed, including limited local access to inputs, limiting crop yields¹¹. Table 2 presents the economic and population information for the seven participating communes.

Table 2: Economic distribution of the seven project-affected communes.

Communes	Number of villages (fokontany)	Surface (km²)	Number of inhabitants	Number of households	Average income per worker¹² (\$)¹³	Average available income per capita (\$)/year¹⁴
Ambararatabe	7	120	10,367	2,073	666	440

¹⁰ Summary of the history of the migration of the population in Bongolava, in the results of the socioeconomic study by Jean Chrysostome RAKOTONDRAVELO et al, p.10-11.

¹¹ Summary of results of the study on the assessment of the ecosystem services by Holy Raharinjanahary et al, p.11

¹² All types of exploitation included, except employer farms. Most households have 3-4 workers.

¹³ 1 USD = 2,462.06 Ariary (MID rates by the Central Bank of Madagascar as of 08/08/2014)

¹⁴ Global standard poverty line = \$1.25/ day = \$456.25/ year

Communes	Number of villages (<i>fokontany</i>)	Surface (km ²)	Number of inhabitants	Number of households	Average income per worker ¹² (\$) ¹³	Average available income per capita (\$) / year ¹⁴
Ambatolampy	10	152	10,660	2,132	447	284
Ankadinondry Sakay	22	376	34,105	6,821	660	271
Mahasolo	16	934	32,434	6,487	880	542
Maritampona	7	410	6,619	1,324	589	305
Tsinjoarivo Imanga	10	450	15,317	3,063	388	167
Tsiroanomandidy Fihaonana	20	1777	32,372	6,474	800	338

Source: Socio-Economic Study by John Chrysostom Rakotondravelo et al, 2014

Biophysical characteristics

Agronomic potential is estimated to be between 15-20% of the total land area. The area contains two major types of soil: lateritic and hydromorphic. Raised plateaux consist of humic ferralitic soils that are rejuvenated but very fragile. The loss of vegetative cover on most of the soils of these plateaux has depleted them of organic matter and rendered them highly vulnerable to erosion. The soils are ferralitic tan or brown red *tanety*, characterized by good exchange capacity, but the humus layer is shallow. The hydromorphic soils are characterized by the presence of iron and a low rate of decomposition and humification of organic matter. Their content in fertile elements is generally quite low. With good drainage and irrigation, they are suitable for rice farming and for dry off-season crops. Some flat areas have scarce alluvial soils, locally known as *baiboho*¹⁵, with light texture.

The soils on the intervention areas are generally characterized by their structural weakness, exacerbated by abiotic and anthropogenic factors. The soil characteristics and exacerbating factors lead to significant land degradation. Land resources are being rapidly degraded, thus undermining the livelihoods of those who depend on them. Estimates of the resistance to erosion have shown that the ferralitic soils that cover most of the local areas have a high erosion potential of 4.50 mm/ year.

¹⁵ The *baiboho* are recent alluvial soils.

Image 1: Bongolava landscape.



The soils are acidic (pH 4.5 to 5.5) and are unsuitable for grain crops such as rice and maize. The soils also generally have low organic carbon content (< 20 g/ kg). These are generally mineral soils with poor carbon content (0.5-1.5% soil organic carbon—SOC—by mass). Agriculturally viable soils should contain at least 17.5 g/ kg of organic carbon (i.e., $\geq 1.75\%$ SOC; ≥ 30 g/ kg of organic matter). The total nitrogen content, especially on slopes, is also very low (0.047–0.200%), further magnifying problems from low levels organic matter and phosphorus.¹⁶ These poor soil conditions are exacerbated by erosion. According to studies conducted in the context of this project, whereas run-off in savanna grasses ranges from 0.02-5.00%, run-off in much of the project areas is up to 16%, leading to significant erosion.

As described in the PIF, Madagascar suffers from land degradation due to (i) abiotic factors, including erosion, and (ii) anthropogenic factors, such as inappropriate and unsustainable practices—particularly via development, burning, and denuding of slopes, hills, and plateaux (a vast geographic type known as *tanety*). Local consultations¹⁷ in the seven participating communes helped identify and further clarify land-degradation challenges facing those communities:

¹⁶ Summary of results of the study of the physical environment and assessment of the ecosystem services of lands in the Bongolava region (Middle West of Madagascar) for their participatory sustainable management, conducted by Lilia Rabeharisoa.

¹⁷ Local consultations were held the last week of February 2014 to cross-check the results of studies conducted by three consultants during the preparatory phase: (i) Socio-economic study by John Chrysostom Rakotondravelo et al., (ii) study the physical context and systemic eco values by Lilia Rabeharisoa, and (iii) study on the valuation of ecosystem services by Holy Raharinjanahary et al.

Table 3: Land-degradation challenges in the seven participating communes.

Commune	Challenges
Ambararatabe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfires - Water erosion - Invasive plants - The need for broader adoption of direct seeding on permanent plant cover (SCV) - Topological vulnerabilities from slope and soil fragility - Land tenure conflicts and difficulties securing land - Soil impoverishment - Stray cattle - Insufficient amount of and access to good land due to fragmentation and degradation
Ambatolampy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land tenure problems, especially related to securing land - Environmental degradation - Natural disasters (locust invasion, cyclone, pests) - Bushfires and massive deforestation - Insecurity related to "dahalo" (bandit raids, especially cattle theft) - No control of water - Animal disease
Ankadinondry Sakay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-enforcement of laws (poor governance) - Poor land security - Bushfires and unsustainable exploitation of forest resources - Illegal mining - Poor control of water - Stray cattle
Mahasolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Depletion of water resources - Physical property insecurity - Land tenure - Climate disturbances causing disruptions of the crop calendar
Maritampona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water erosion - Bushfires - Non-implementation of laws (poor governance) - Invasive plants and pests
Tsinjoarivo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uncontrolled bushfires - Deforestation - Non-enforcement of laws (poor governance) - Misuse of land resources - Invasive plants - Poor pasture management
Tsiroanomandidy Fihaonana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water erosion - Bushfires - Soil depletion - Massive deforestation - No control of water management

Source: Consultation locale ANAE, 2014

The threats to SLM are in most cases very complex, involving numerous, interwoven factors. For example, degradation from bushfires is a complicated issue. According to the study conducted during the PPG, the

frequency of bushfires in the seven participating communes increased from 2001 to 2013, with peaks in 2003 and 2010. The fires in 2009 and 2010 related directly to the national political situation, reflecting political dissidence and evincing the lack of strong local leadership to channel social and political dissatisfaction more effectively. Beside the political causes, bushfires are thought to be caused primarily by: (i) grazing fire practice which aims to have regrowth of tender grasses to feed zebu (ii) *dahalo*, using fires to protect their escape against the chasers (iii) non-effective locust control as fire is the mean found by local communities to fight against locust invasion (iv) accidental fires (cleaning of agricultural plots, uncontrolled fires cooking...) and criminals fires. The example of bushfires makes clear that a major factor in regional land degradation is the weak capacity of institutions to manage complex land-use challenges.

Drivers and root causes

The aforementioned threats and harms are largely a function of the following three drivers/ root causes: (i) weak institutions (particularly at decentralized levels) and insufficient capacity related to SLM, (ii) inappropriate land-management practices and limited support related to SLM, and (iii) weak or non-existent knowledge management related to SLM. The following paragraphs expound on these factors.

(i) Weak institutions and capacity for SLM.

Bongolava receives limited support from the government and other partners in sustainable development, such that local institutions have constrained resources with which to implement SLM independently. This situation is exacerbated by political crises that inhibit implementation of local developmental plans (e.g., regional and communal developmental plans).

Furthermore, land management in Madagascar is significantly affected by land-tenure insecurity and non-enforcement of laws. Land users are less likely to manage land sustainably with insecure or uncertain land tenure, complex and non-transparent land-tenure laws, institutional weaknesses in the land-tenure system (e.g., monitoring, record-keeping, enforcement, dispute resolution, etc.), and socio-cultural considerations in rural areas that weaken the legitimacy of land-tenure claims.

(ii) Inappropriate land-management practices and limited support related to SLM.

Inappropriate land uses are not just a function of the broader context (described above), but also of limited knowledge and the high risk of change. High resource dependency makes experimentation with new techniques very risky. Populations of the seven participating communes heavily depend on natural resources. In general, resources are used directly. Soils are used as agricultural landscapes, such as for rainfed crop plots, irrigated plots, and off-season crops. Water is used mostly for agricultural purposes, such as irrigation of rice fields. Vegetation is used mainly for domestic (fuels) and animal (feed and fodder) uses. Even when dependencies for a resource are low, it is often because the resource is depleted or degraded. As presented in Table 4, the results of the study¹⁸ conducted during the preparatory phase of this project demonstrate these strong dependencies.

¹⁸ Study to assess the ecosystem services, by Holy Raharinjanahary et al, March 2014, p.23

Table 4: Degree of dependency on natural resources (1 = low; 5 = high).

Communes	Soil			Vegetation		Water				
	Rice field	Plateaux (Tanety)	Lowlands (Baiboho)	Savannah	Woodlands	Waterways	Spring	Fish pond	Marsh	Well
Ambararatabe	5	2	3	1	2	2	1	2		
Ambatolampy	5	3	4	3	2	3	4		5	
Ankadinondry	5	3	5	2	2	3	1			
Mahasolo	5	2	4	2	2	4	1			
Maritampona	5	2	5	1	2	4	3	2		2
Tsinjoarivo	5	2	4	2	2	4	1			
Tsiroanomandidy Fihaonana	5	4	4	3	2	4	2			
Average	5.0	2.6	4.1	2.0	2.0	3.4	1.9	2.0	5.0	2.0

Source: Village-level workshops, 2014

When interpreting these results, it is important to consider that upstream and downstream resources are interdependent, such that the resource dependencies of some communities inherently depend on the resource dependencies of other communities. Moreover, ecosystem services and values differ by location and ecosystem type, so local capacities will have to be developed for commune-specific contexts.

Although several technical partners have successfully developed sustainable systems of resource management in Madagascar, these practices have not been widely adopted in Bongolava for various reasons. According to local farmers, adoption has been limited due to (i) the technical difficulty and high cost of adoption, (ii) the difficulty of access to inputs and means of production, (iii) the lack of relevant economic information, and (iv) the lack of monitoring and technical support.

(iii) Lack of knowledge management and dissemination approaches.

Despite several initiatives in the region, Bongolava has not commensurately benefited from previous efforts related to capacity development, financial investment, and research. However, sustainable agricultural practices exist for the region's agro-ecological and socio-economic conditions. Thus, a primary limiting factor is effective knowledge management.

Table 5 presents solutions preliminarily suggested by members of the participating communes. Their feedback suggests that the participating communities are aware of the obstacles to overcome, namely non-participatory governance systems, deficiencies in rural institutions, lack of awareness of nominal legal protections for resources, and unsustainable land-management practices. Community members indicated that efforts at sustainable resource management are often undercut by unsuitable technologies or very limited scientific information to facilitate their scaling-up.¹⁹ Decentralized local governmental units (e.g., branches and regional districts), decentralized civil structures (e.g., communes and *fokontany*), and other sector-based local development actors do not have mechanisms to generate and disseminate knowledge.

¹⁹ Generally in Madagascar, non-enforcement of laws governing land-use and land-grabbing is a major impediment to the development of agriculture; this issue is not specific to the Bongolava region.

Table 5: Solutions preliminarily proposed by the participating communes.

Communes	Solutions
Ambararatabe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a management and control committee - Restoration of soil fertility by fallowing and crop rotation - Facilitating the process for land tenure security - Establishing an effective grazing and water management system - strengthening awareness activities (fire, law enforcement, community work, development of plots) - Support in the development of agricultural plots - Reforestation - Productive capacity building
Ambatolampy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facilitating the process for land tenure security - Productive capacity building - Reforestation and fight against bushfires - Strengthening close supervision - grassroot accountability through participation approach - Awareness about the effects of climate change and the application of <i>dina</i> - Communication on existing legislation - Behavior change according to irrational use of resources - Enhancing the protection against erosion - Public involvement in of project impact assessment
Ankadinondry Sakay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training in sustainable land management - Productive capacity building - Establishing a monitoring system for project actions at commune level - Enforcement of laws and regulations - Strengthening close supervision - Building spaces for exchange: communication tools, exchange visit, site demonstration of SLM practices - Development of plots - Reforestation: pink pepper
Mahasolo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reforestation: fast-growing plants - Establishing a system to fight bushfires - Management of plots - Capacity building for producers in the SLM concept - Enhancing security: security forces, <i>dina</i> - Capacity building for savings - Facilitating the process of securing land
Tsinjoarivo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Behavior change according to rational use of resources - grassroots awareness - Reforestation - Capacity building - Improving local living conditions through the strengthening of production capacity - Enforcing the <i>dina</i> and the laws - Establishing village nurseries - Training on plot management - Establishing an inclusive management committee: community, CTD - Institutional capacity building
Tsiroanomandidy Fihaonana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing village nurseries - Community involvement - Enforcing the Dina and the laws

Communes	Solutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Productive capacity building - Capacity building on plot development, crop rotation, innovative production practices - Water management capacity building - strengthening spaces for exchange: communication tools, exchange visits, demonstration site on SLM practices - Community empowerment - Establishing a pasture management system - Establishing a community-based and representative management committee
Maritampona	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application of the Dina and existing laws on forestry and mining - Community reforestation - Behavior change - Awareness on sustainable land management practices

Source: ANAE, 2014

Overall, this feedback from participating communities reinforced and further clarified the threats, drivers, barriers, and approach described in the PIF. This feedback has also further emphasized the need for local refinement and prioritization of project-level themes during the inception phase, rather than over-prescribing community-level interventions.

Project solution and approach.

The project's objective is to build stakeholders' capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands. Annex A presents the project's logical framework, comprising three components, which directly address the three barriers described above. The logical framework succinctly links the project's activities and outputs to outcomes and the overall objective. The following section describes the project's approach. As emphasized in the PIF, the project's approach focuses on *participation*, *adaptive capacities*, and *livelihoods*.

Participation.

The entire project cycle strongly incorporates deep community engagement and participation, which will be embedded in the strengthened local institutions. Local institutions are part of the participatory management approach, to the extent that community rules such as the *dina*²⁰ and the *valin-tànana*²¹ are tools for effective and efficient management in rural areas. These norms frame the establishment of a participatory system of sustainable land management in the Bongolava region. According to local stakeholders²², the application of the *dina* is effective and makes up the collective codes of conduct of rural societies²³ or customary rules recognized by the Malagasy government²⁴. Given the above-mentioned environmental problems, a local management approach is needed to (i) provide an appropriate basis for participatory land management, (ii) facilitate an accurate, comprehensive understanding of dynamic local issues, and (iii) help ensure local ownership of goals, leading to sustainable strategies and effective SLM application.

Adaptive capacities.

The project aims to achieve its objective not only through direct on-the-ground investments, but also—and far more importantly—by building the capacities of local communities for dynamic, sustainable land management. In other words, the project's approach enables and empowers communities to adapt to evolving circumstances, not merely to replicate behaviors advocated during the project.

²⁰ A form of rules governing a community that regulates and is recognized in the community and by the state

²¹ Form of community mutual support in rural communities

²² During the validation workshop of the project document, August 5, 2014, in Tsironomandidy, Bongolava Region.

²³ <http://www.tropicalconservationscience.mongabay.com>

²⁴ Law 154-Order No. 2008-002 of February 27, 2008; <http://www.m.jwf-legal2.fr.gd/Lois-154.htm>

Finally, households' livelihood strategies are central to effective, sustainable land management. Development efforts have little chance of success and sustainability unless they improve the population's living conditions in the short-to-medium term. Thus, the project's activities focus strongly on strengthening livelihoods and improving livelihood security, particularly for vulnerable members of participating communities. For example, the local execution partner, ANAE, will continue to work closely with communities and local authorities to address the *dahalo* threat, such as through increased use of cattle branding and registrations. Those efforts are on-going in parallel with the proposed project.

A.5. Incremental /Additional cost reasoning: describe the incremental (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or additional (LDCF/SCCF) activities requested for GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF financing and the associated global environmental benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or associated adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF) to be delivered by the project:

Although governmental programs are in place to strengthen decentralized strategic planning, improve livelihoods, and increase agricultural production, resource management is still not a priority in the region. This strategic gap harms the region's economy and negatively affects households due to degraded ecosystem services (supply, regulation, support, cultural value, and amenities). Table 6 presents the estimated annual values of ecosystem services in the seven participating communes. These estimates include the direct and indirect use value as well as the non-use value.

Table 6: Estimated annual values of ecosystem services.

Commune	Estimated Annual Value (\$ ²⁵)
Ambararatabe	20,645,654
Ambatolampy	25,251,015
Ankadinondry	68,489,805
Mahasolo	155,160,845
Maritampona	63,380,737
Tsinjoarivo	86,523,558
Tsiroanomandidy Fihaonana	244,503,958

Source: *Study on the evaluation of ecosystem services, Holy Raharinjanahary et al.*

According to this analysis, the seven communes will continue to lose about \$663,955,572 every year without GEF support for sustainable land management. For example, each year, the District of Tsiroanomandidy would lose \$22,145,571 worth of savannah²⁶. If this project is implemented, the ecosystem services will improve, which will increase their value. Values of ecosystemic services in the seven communes will also be estimated at the end of the project so as to estimate the project's regional economic impact.

Without the proposed project, the practices of unsustainable natural resources management will continue to predominate in Bongolava. Alternatively, with the project's support for SLM, GEF funding will positively affect the value of ecosystem goods and services, such as via (i) improved soil productivity in rain-fed agriculture, (ii) regenerated fertility of the *tanety* and rice fields, (iii) reduced costs for irrigated crops due to improved water management and shortened low-flow periods, (iv) improved quality and quantity of water for domestic use, (v) avoided drying-up of water sources, (vi) avoided pollution due to erosion, (vii) reduced energy costs ($\geq 1/3$ reduction) due to reforestation, and (viii) increased biodiversity through the restoration of natural habitat and ecological balance between farmers and their land.

²⁵ 1 USD = 2,462.06 Ariary (Cour of the MID of the Banque Centrale of Madagascar; 08/08/2014)

²⁶ In the absence of data available at the 7 communes, the study is based on the number of livestock provided by the Ministry of Livestock that pertains to the District of Tsiroanomandidy. Since it is difficult to assess the percentage for each commune, we estimated the value of SE savannah for the entire district of Tsiroanomandidy.

However, the GEF funding will build on the current Government and partners investment in support of SLM as co-funding. These investments include:

- a) Cofinancing from decentralized local authorities which will contribute to awareness-raising activities and to mobilization of communities.
- b) Cofinancing from MEEF which will serve in:
 - Coordination and harmonization of activities,
 - Technical training on forestry and soil restoration,
 - Support for the planning and monitoring evaluation
 - Support for dissemination of experiences
 - The public investments.
- c) Cofinancing from National Centre of Agricultural (FOFIFA) which will be used for technical and scientific support, and making available research results.
- d) Cofinancing from the Ministries in charge of Agriculture and Livestock (MARD and MINEL), will support overall coordination of actions, capacity building, dissemination of experiences and livelihoods activities through various projects and bodies affiliated to both departments.
- e) Cofinancing from ANAE will support:
 - Project management through its human resources, equipments (vehicules, IT equipments, etc) and facilities (e.g. offices facilities)
 - Planning and monitoring of activities,
 - Technical training for rural communities.

The expected results from the GEF increment could be achieved through the project objectives:

- to operationalize SLM plans in the 7 communes allowing to change behavior and to adopt sustainable good agricultural practice,
- to increase areas of land managed under SLM of at least 40% or approximately 42,000 ha
- and to increase by at least 20% the income of communities through reinforcement of productive bases, capacity building and knowledge on SLM practice.

GEF support will address the barriers of upscaling good SLM practices by catalysing 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, leading to increased productivity, increased revenues, and improved status of natural resources. The practices will also facilitate the resolution of conflicts by setting up a co-accountability process.

GEF support will also catalyse the coordinated involvement and investment of members of the Groupement Semis Direct de Madagascar (GSDM), leading to an overall sizeable intervention with significant impact at household, landscape, and regional levels. GEF support will also facilitate upscaling and dissemination by

integrating sustainable practices into the large baseline of agricultural and rural development projects.

Overview of additionality by outcome.

Outcome 1 will be *all concerned local stakeholders are able and committed to implementing sustainable land management (SLM) measures*. This will cover the seven communes. Outcome 1 focuses on the necessary institutional development, capacity-building, data collection, analyses, and participatory planning that will form the basis for the design of the technical interventions under Outcome 2. This component builds on local and regional commitments to create an enabling environment for SLM in the region. Local and regional administrations will provide cofinancing in terms of facilities and necessary technical staff to ensure adequate structures are in place. A strategic partnership will be developed with GDSM to increase the inclusiveness, durability, and long-term sustainability of the enabling environment. This project's approach focuses on adaptive, on-going, participatory planning, which will be facilitated under Outcome 1. This support will include the establishment/ support of relevant institutions, particularly local, communal, and regional Sustainable Land and Conflicts Management committees, and the development of communal action plans (Implementation Plans) to be implemented through Outcome 2. These institutional initiatives will focus on land conservation, land productivity, and the resolution of conflicts related to access and use of natural resources. Associated plans will be fully integrated into existing and forthcoming Commune Development Plans (PCD) and Regional Development Plans (PRD).

Without GEF support, coming initiatives from decentralised local authorities to support rural development and agriculture would not fully address sustainable land management (SLM). Through this project, GEF support will integrate and mainstream SLM into these initiatives to promote and contribute to conservation agriculture. Component 1 will build capacities at commune, district, and regional levels to form the basis for long-term sustainability.

Outcome 2 will be *Land degradation reduced and the living conditions improved across the project's intervention areas*. This outcome will cover the seven communes. This component will build on many baseline/cofinancing projects and activities supported by national partners and financed mainly by international donors and national NGOs active in the region, including ANAE (project national co-executing agency).

Baseline projects that will provide substantive cofinancing for this component will come from the projects and activities managed by the Ministry of Agriculture (e.g., for increased production, extension services staff, and establishment of agricultural services centres) Ministry of Livestock Production (e.g., fodder production project, development of cow production). Their co-financing allow to strengthen the project coordination to facilitate the integration of the actions to be implemented, the technical capacity building to promote agroecology through technical departments and the members of GSDM, and the support in the dissemination of experiences related to soil and water conservation and livelihoods activities of various government projects. For the decentralized local authorities, co-funding will contribute to awareness-raising activities and to mobilization of communities. For MEEF, co-financing fund will serve in coordination and harmonization of activities, technical training on forestry and soil restoration, support for the planning and monitoring evaluation, support for dissemination of experiences and the public investments. For the National Centre of Agricultural FOFIFA, co-financing will be used for technical and scientific support, and making available research results.

In the initial phase, the project will help communities establish Communal Land Use Plans while also helping to address urgent priorities identified in Outcome 1, likely focusing on urgent measures to meet communities' needs for energy and water. These urgent measures will contribute to land rehabilitation, provide an entry point for raising awareness in favor of SLM, and support initiatives to improve communities' options for

improved, gender-sensitive, and sustainable livelihoods. Exact measures of land uses are planned as part of the process of creating community SLM plans. The PMU aims to work with communities to combine GPS mapping with app-driven collection systems (e.g., CollectEarth) to gather and track LULUCF metrics. During this process, particular attention will be given to:

- number of hectares under different SLM practices,
- equivalent in carbon
- change in land productivity,
- improved farmer income, etc

The initial phase of addressing urgent measures will be followed by two parallel sets of activities. The first will introduce specific agricultural, silvicultural, and livestock-raising practices that are socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable. This will draw from GSDM's previous work in support of direct-sowing. 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. This participatory process will build the capacity of local people to adapt, to manage their own agricultural development (Output 2.1.3), and to increase their revenues in a socially sustainable manner whilst maintaining ecological integrity. These activities on the ground will emphasize techniques for conservation agriculture through *direct sowing* onto permanently covered land. In addition, this may include introducing new crops (including cash crops), integrated pest management, integrated fertilizer management, improved grazing, crop diversification, land-/ soil-conservation measures, water-conservation measures, measures for improved adaptation to climate change, carbon-storage techniques, biodiversity valuation, etc.

Identifying activities to be implemented and communities' consultations in each commune will be organized. These consultations will not only allow defining actions but especially to prioritize them according to the main problem of each zone regarding soil degradation. Actions will be focused so as to strengthen durably of productive bases and to improve the communities' livelihood. Improving land productivity will require at least two years to be able to impact on household incomes and livelihoods activities will be promoted to have sustainable economic, social and environmental results.

Finally, Component 2 will also establish a participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic parameters in each commune. This output will not only empower the local stakeholders in assessing their progress toward sustainable local development but also give an opportunity for adaptive management toward sustainability and local development opportunities.

Outcome 3 will be *Stakeholders are committed to SLM at all levels*. This will focus on obtaining district, regional, and national commitment to the replication of the project's successes to other communes and districts. Moreover, the general lessons learnt under the project may be applicable to other countries; 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 agricultural and rural development projects will serve as vehicles for the dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, given the long-term experiences of GSDM and ANAE in promoting and piloting best practices, they will have key roles in assessing impacts and dissemination activities.

As indicated in the PIF, the project will strengthen ecological integrity by reducing erosion, improving the sustainability and diversity of resource-dependent livelihoods, and decreasing conflicts over scarce natural resources.

As requested at Council approval, the PPG phase identified additional quantifiable indicators:

Table 7: GEBs to be generated per component.

Project Components	Global Environmental Benefits
<p>COMPONENT 1: Institutional Development and Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SLM plans adopted and operational in all 7 communes - Increase resources in at least 5 of 7 communes to support SLM - Priority SLM measures implemented in all 7 communes - The implementation of the project will encourage a change in collective behavior of local authorities towards land management. The adoption and the implementation of the project will also facilitate the transfer of technical skills and financial management expertise at the local level improving the sense of responsibility with regard to the land degradation. - The project also will allow to improve the capacity of local management through the application of decision-making tools and to create an environment convenient for their implementation.
<p>COMPONENT 2: Implementation of sustainable land management practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 40% or 41,350 Ha of locally managed lands under SLM in 7 commune. - At least 20% (about 5,000 households) of land users substantially implementing SLM (extensively or intensively) as result of training or awareness-raising received - Popularizing environmentally and economically viable agricultural techniques will restore soil fertility and improve the income of the local population. An increase of annual income of at least 21% and up to 85% could be expected by local communities or about 119 USD to 484 USD²⁷. - The use of best agricultural practices can increase soil productivity by at least 15%^{28, 29}. - The project will strengthen community resilience as it will improve their economic and social conditions. - Currently, the stock of carbon in the soil of Bongolava region is estimated at 60 tC/ ha/year. The project implementation will increase or at least maintain this carbon. The project's activities are expected to increase carbon stocks 0-2 t/ ha/ year via conservation agriculture and about 850 kg/ ha/ year via agroforestry.³⁰ - Finally, the project will contribute in the long term to the sequestration of carbon of the soil and to the decrease of the greenhouse gases emission. It will also restore forest ecosystems while regulating the microclimate and restoring water points. Usually the economic benefits of the project implementation are defined as from the second crop year, if techniques are followed well: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase of the yields on <i>tanety</i> (succession of plateaus and hills) from 0 to 500% (Programme BVPI, 2014)^{31,32} - Increase of farm incomes from 21 to 85% (Rakotondralambo and Ravelombonjy, 2008)³³

²⁷ <http://www.beep.ird.fr/collect/bre/index/assoc/HASH01df.dir/19-258-273.pdf>

²⁸ SEGUY, L. 2009. Rapport de mission à Madagascar du 28 mars au 9 avril 2009. Suivi-évaluation de l'opération diffusion des systèmes de culture sur couverture végétale permanente SCV. Recommandations au développement et à la recherche en appui au GSDM et aux projets BV-Lac et BV-PI SE/HP. CIRAD. Montpellier.

²⁹ <http://www.beep.ird.fr/collect/bre/index/assoc/HASH01df.dir/19-258-273.pdf>

³⁰ Grinand, C. et al. 2009. Estimation des stocks de carbone dans les sols de Madagascar. Antananarivo.

³¹ Programme National Bassins versants Périmètres irrigués (BVPI), 2014. Rapport d'achèvement. Direction général technique. Secrétariat général. Ministère de l'agriculture et du développement rural. Antananarivo. Décembre 2014.

³² <http://www.beep.ird.fr/collect/bre/index/assoc/HASH01df.dir/19-258-273.pdf>

Project Components	Global Environmental Benefits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recovery of 200 ha on average which having been sanded by the phenomena of <i>lavaka</i> (large gullies) ³⁴ - Increase of the yields in bottomland of vegetable crops from 33 to 100% and of rice from 50 to 205%.³⁵ <p>SLM goal for project means the use of the natural resources, such as soils, forests, rangelands, waters, flora and fauna, to produce goods which serve to meet the needs of the rural communities while protecting the natural potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrating watershed and ecosystem management - Fight against desertification and land degradation - Restoring soil fertility - Sustainable management of rangeland and forests - Sustainable land management - Capacity building <p>The purpose of the project would be to optimize ecosystem services to sustain communities' livelihoods while maximizing environmental benefits.</p>
COMPONENT 3 : Knowledge Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SLM practices disseminated in 22 neighboring communes for scaling up - SLM lessons learned documented and adopted by 7 communes - SLM practices have been incorporated into at least one Regional Development Plan, including plans and resources for scaling up - The implementation of the Project will have relevant and reliable information on effective practices that can invert the trend of the degradation of lands. The Project results also allow facilitating awareness with regard to land degradation and sustainable solutions to be proposed.

ALTERNATIVE SCENARIO: PROJECT GOALS, COMPONENTS, AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The alternative scenario presented at the PIF stage is still valid and no major changes are found necessary during the PPG period. Netherless, the table 7 bellow present some minor deviations from the PIF

GEF support will address the barriers of upscaling good SLM practices by catalysing 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 objective is therefore to build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands

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:

³³ RAKOTONDRA LAMBO, A., RAVELOMBONJY, A.F.V., 2010. Impacts of Permanent Soil Cover on the productivity of rainfed rice farming systems in Alaotra Lake Region, Madagascar. Agricultural Water Management Delivers Returns on Investment in Africa. Findings from a case study of Madagascar. Improved Management of Agricultural Water in Eastern & Southern Africa (IMAWESA). ICRISAT, Nairobi, Kenya.

³⁴ <http://www.beep.ird.fr/collect/bre/index/assoc/HASH01df.dir/19-258-273.pdf>

³⁵ <http://www.beep.ird.fr/collect/bre/index/assoc/HASH01df.dir/19-258-273.pdf>

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 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 component build on local and regional commitment to create an enabling environment for SLM in the region. Local and regional administration will provide cofinancing in term of facilities and necessary technical staff to ensure adequate structures are in place. Strategic partnership will be developed with GDSM group to increase the chance of success and durability of the enabling environment that will be in place. Subsequent to the rapid planning undertaken in the PPG, comprehensive participatory planning covering all social, economic, ecological, cultural and political aspects will be undertaken in the Outcome. This will include the establishment/support of organizational structures particularly local, communal and regional Sustainable Land and Conflicts Management committee in each commune, and the development of communal action plans (Implementation Plans) to be implemented through Outcome 2. These will focus on land conservation and productivity, management of conflicts related to access and use of natural resources and will be fully integrated into existing and pipeline Commune Development Plans (PCD) and Regional Development Plans (PRD). Through this integration, the background initiatives to support rural development and agriculture that without GEF support would not fully address sustainable land management, will be modified and will promote and contribute to conservation agriculture. The capacity built under this Outcome, at commune, district and regional level, will be the basis for sustainability of Project Outcomes.

The second Outcome will be *Land degradation reduced and the living conditions improved across the project's intervention areas*. This will cover the seven communes. This component will build on many baseline/cofinancing projects and activities supported by national partners and financed mainly by international donors. Baseline projects that will provide substantive cofinancing for this component will come from the projects and activities managed by the ministries of Agriculture (Amelioration of productivity, extension services staff, establishment of agricultural services centres etc), of Livestock production (Fodder production project, development of Cow production, etc) and National NGO active in the region and which include ANAE (project national co-executing Agency) and GSDM. Initially the component will support urgent priorities identified in Outcome 1 – with likely a focus on urgent measures to meet communities energy and water needs. The idea is that due to the level of degradation in the project area and it impacts to local communities, addressing urgent land degradation issues, while the assessment is conducted for identification and consideration of long term measures in the Communal Land Use Plans, will generate the following GESB : i) ha of lands rehabilitated as result of urgent measures; ii) entry point for awareness raising in favor of SLM ; and iii) contribute to addressing communities livelihood options.

Next, there will be two parallel sets of activities. The first will be the piloting of concrete 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 (output 2.1.3)– to increase their own revenues in a socially sustainable manner whilst maintaining ecological integrity. These concrete activities on the ground 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 through the component a participatory monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental and socio-economic parameters in each commune. This output will not only empower the local stakeholders in assessing their progress toward sustainable local development but also it will give an opportunity for adaptive management toward sustainability and local development opportunities.

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 will serve as vehicles for the dissemination of sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, given the long term experience of GSDM and ANAE on promoting and piloting best practices, they will be a key role in assessing impacts and dissemination activities

Table 7b. Summary of minor changes between the PIF and the current project’s structure.³⁶

Project Element	PIF Version	Current Version	Justifications for the changes
Output 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).	Local land users and land management committees trained in SLM and business development.	Edited for simplicity and to clarify the nature of the “new land management techniques”.
Output 2.1.4.	Concrete, alternative, integrated, adaptive, eco-friendly and productive agricultural, herding and energy production practices developed and piloted.	Concrete and appropriate SLM measures for agriculture, pastoralism, and energy production demonstrated and adopted.	Edited for brevity and to clarify that the project is focused on tailoring, demonstrating, and encouraging adoption of SLM practices.
Outcome 3.1	Project successes are made permanent and replicated.	Stakeholders are committed to SLM at all levels.	Edited to clarify the specific elements of this outcome. The “permanence” element has been more fully reflected in the indicators and deliverables for Output 3.1.3. <i>Broad and high-level commitment to expanding and replicating</i>

³⁶ Table excludes minor changes in wording or syntax.

			<i>measures</i> —(e.g., via incorporation of SLM into the Regional Development Plan and commitments for reliable on-going resources).
--	--	--	---

A.6 Risks—including climate change, social, and environmental risks—that might prevent the project from achieving its objective, and measures that address these potential risks:

The risks identified in the PIF are still relevant—namely: land tenure, local poverty, and climate change. Table 8 describes 3 additional risks further clarified during the project’s preparation.

Table 8: Additional risks clarified during the project’s preparation.

Description of risks	Degree	Measures proposed
Security Risk: Participants might emigrate out of the project area due to security risks, such as crime, violence, and livestock theft, from which the area currently suffers.	Medium	The project will establish and strengthen the local institutional capacity to coordinate closely with police to reduce risks, especially via proactive, deterrent measures—e.g., (i) supporting the increased use of registered cattle branding and identification, (ii) advocating coordinated herding arrangements (to reduce the prevalence of unattended cattle without increasing the necessary herding labor), and (iii) increased support for <i>dina</i> and <i>dinabe</i> governance systems to ensure local and inter-communal mechanisms of coordination and punishment.
Climate change and its local impact might corrupt Project results. The main climate threat is seasonal drought which could be accompanied by flooding. These two phenomena cannot be solved by promoted techniques.	Medium-low	The project aims to introduce an adaptive management approach, giving the local community the necessary tools, skills and information to help managing every situation. Generally, adjusting cropping calendars and seed selection are the main responses to changes in rainy season shift. If previously irrigated crops begin at least September, currently the first work began in the month of November-December over the past five years because of rain delays. It is the same for rainfed crops, which begin around December, two to three months later compared to years before. The use of short-cycle seeds is indicated to face the shortening of the rainy season. Also, the adoption of agroecology approach will help to face the problems of fertility and water management, and plant diseases and pests.
Technological Risk: Introduction of new SLM technologies and practices might have unintended consequences for ecosystem dynamics.	Moderately low	The project builds communities’ adaptive capacities to recognize and constructively respond to such emergent risks. Proven agroecological practices adapted to local conditions will be favoured and local knowledge will be valued. Research/participative action will be used in order to better manage the risk.

A.7. Coordination with other relevant GEF financed initiatives

In addition to the information provided in the PIF, the following tables provide an update of the ongoing projects and initiatives and areas of coordination with the project. Key partners of these projects/ initiatives

will participate in the project's Steering Committee and there will be active collaboration with these partners on thematic activities.

Table 9: Key projects/ initiatives and coordination with the project.

Project/ Initiative	Donor/ Agency	Amount (USD)	Executing partner	Location	Key objectives and areas of coordination with the proposed project
Adapting coastal zone management to climate change considering ecosystem and livelihoods	UNEP/ GEF	5,337,500	MEEMF ¹	Menabe, Boeny, Vatovavy Fitovinany and Atsinanana	<p>To reduce vulnerability of the coastal zone to climate variability and change through institutional capacity building, concrete coastal adaptation interventions, and integration of climate change into policy and planning</p> <p>The lessons learned from this project—particularly on reinforcing the resilience of local communities and systems—will be captured and adopted to the conditions of the Grasslands Plateaux.</p>
Conservation of Key Threatened, Endemic and Economically Valuable Species in Madagascar	GEF/ UNEP	5,650,000	MEEMF	National	<p>Key threatened, endemic and valuable flora and fauna species are conserved and sustainably utilized in the local socio-economy</p> <p>Synergy will be developed between the 2 projects in such a way that endemic and threatened species in Bongolava are considered in this LD project and a coordination mechanism will be established to ensure that the 2 projects are mutually supported.</p>
A Landscape Approach to conserving and managing threatened Biodiversity in Madagascar with focus on Atsimo-Andrefana Spiny and Dry Forest Landscape	GEF/ UNDP (GEF-5, BD)	6,000,000	MEEMF, Fondation Tany Meva SAGE	Atsimo- Andrefana region	<p>Knowledge exchanges between these projects will inform the approach in the Bongolava region. The project already acquired form of capital gains capitalized for the project.</p>
Strengthening Capacities adaptation of rural communities of the regions of Analamanga,	GEF/ UNDP (LDCF)	6,000,000	MEEMF/ UNDP	Analamanga , Atsinanana, Androy, Anosy et d'Atsimo	<p>Strengthening communities' resilience capacities through the implementation of activities facilitating adaptation to climate change.</p>

Atsinanana, Androy, Anosy and Atsimo Andrefana				Andrefana region	
Enabling Climate Resilience in the Agriculture Sector in the Southwest Region of Madagascar	GEF/ AfDB (LDCF)	6,272,000	MEEMF/ MARD/ AfDB	Atsimo-Andrefana region	
Regional climate resilience in the forests and grasslands of southern Africa	GEF/ FAO/ LDCF	8,458,000	FAO	7 regions including Bongolava	
Sustainable land, natural resources and wood energy management for an integrated development in the South-West of Madagascar	GEF/ UNDP (GEF-6, LD/ BD/ CC/ SFM)	8,000,000	UNDP	Menabe-Atsimo Andrefana region	Environment and Energy – Strengthening capacity MDG 1 – Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and MDG 7 – Ensure environmental sustainability
Program to micro-business support for rural and regional economic poles of Madagascar	IFAD	4,500,000	MADR ² / IFAD	Sud Est (southeastern) region	To create effective services to meet the needs of rural micro-business. The project also focuses on the restructuring of traditional communities' essential elements of the value chain for sustainable economic growth
Support of professional organizations and agricultural building services	IFAD	6,000,000	MADR / IFAD	Anosy, Haute Matsiatra, Androy, Ihorombe et Amoron'i Mania Region	To strengthen existing structures by improving agricultural productive capacity, to increase the income of rural households

¹ MEEMF: (French acronym) Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Seas, and Forests

² MADR: (French acronym) Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

Table 10: Coordination with non-GEF projects and initiatives.

Project/ Initiative	Lead	Amount (USD)	Key areas of coordination
Public Investment Project (PIP) and other initiatives in the region	MEESF	2,400,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of activities (Component 4) • Harmonization of interventions (Component 1) • Technology in forestry and soil restoration supervision (Component 2) • Support for planning and monitoring evaluation (Component 4)

Project/ Initiative	Lead	Amount (USD)	Key areas of coordination
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the dissemination of acquired lessons (Component 3)
Rural Development Project Agricultural Service Centre (CSA) Watershed protection (Maintenance Fund of Agricultural Hydro Networks -FERHA)	MARD	1,206,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of rural development projects and watershed protection (Component 1 and 2) • Shares acquired lessons through the operationalization of CSA (Component 3)
Project in terms of resources and animal welfare	MINELPA	17,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building (Component 1 and 2) • Support for the implementation of actions for sustainable land management (Component 2) • Coordination and harmonization of interventions (Component 1)
GSDM SCRID ASARECA	FOFIFA	350,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of rain-fed rice seeds (Component 2) • Improved forage and animal health (Component 2)

Through ANAE, the local project coordination unit, MEEF, and UNEP, the project will collaborate with other projects and partners to ensure synergies, complementarity, and exchanges of lessons and experiences. As appropriate, LoAs and MoUs will be signed with the organizations implementing these initiatives in order to strengthen collaboration. Additionally, in order to ensure synergy and explore possible opportunities for joint efforts and resources, meetings and consultations will be held with other agencies involved in relevant regional initiatives. The project will also support efforts to revitalize a platform for collaboration between relevant regional initiatives.

B. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOT ADDRESSED AT PIF STAGE:

B.1 Describe how the stakeholders will be engaged in project implementation.

The project will be implemented in compliance with the procedures enforced by the Government of Madagascar and UNEP. As the lead national project partner, MEEMF shall assume overall responsibility for the success of the project. The Regional Directorate of Environment and Forestry will supervise the project at the regional level. MEEMF will appoint the UNCCD National Focal Point as Project Director (located in MEEMF) and will supervise and coordinate the work of ANAE (CSO), the primary executing partner for field activities. ANAE has several years of experience in the implementation of bilaterally, multilaterally, and internationally funded projects. ANAE has also been active in the regional promotion of SLM and environmental restoration for about twenty years. ANAE will manage the project and draft all the operational schedules and management mechanisms needed to achieve the project's outcomes. UNEP will support MEESF and ANAE as needed.

The project-preparation phase also reassessed the project's key stakeholders, resulting in a more extensive list of identified stakeholders, as presented in Table 11 below.

Table 11: Analysis of key stakeholders.

Key stakeholders	Mandate	Role in project execution
Ministry of Environment,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the first entity in charge of protecting the environment in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will support the achievement of project results by means of supervision and

Key stakeholders	Mandate	Role in project execution
<p>Ecology, Seas and Forests (French acronym: MEEMF) through the Secretariate General (SG) The Directorate General of the Environment (DGE)</p>	<p>Madagascar, and coordinates all national efforts in the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Operational Focal Point for the GEF is hosted by MEEMF. • The DGE is the direction that oversees the actions of the national focal point for land degradation. • MEEMF is the project’s national lead agency. Through the General Secretariate, the DPPSE and the national UNCCD focal point will ensure project supervision and coordination with other national initiatives. 	<p>advice. In this context, its technical capacity will be strengthened. It will also support the dissemination of the project’s results and will be part of the project steering committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of the project • Technical Support • Financial opportunities to scaling up project result • Institutional support
<p>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Livestock (MINELPA), Ministry of Landscape Development, Ministry of Decentralization, and Ministry of Water Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All these ministries work in sectors related to sustainable management of land resources, such as agriculture, livestock, water, and land. They are primarily responsible for managing these resources. • These ministries define national strategies in their respective fields and coordinate their execution through major projects and programs carried out by national and international organizations. • Each of these ministries will support the project according to their mandates, by giving advice and sharing their experiences. They will strengthen the project’s institutional sustainability. In this context, they will receive the technical training provided under the project and will provide support in disseminating the results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing the project’s overall framework • Technical Support • Financial opportunities to scaling up project result • Institutional support
<p>Decentralized governmental departments working in the field of sustainable management of land resources, represented by the regional directorates (DREF, DRDR,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These offices are primarily responsible for implementing actions related to their sectors in the Bongolava region. • They represent the government’s technical offices and support capacity building and provide technical advice at regional and communal levels Specifically, as a MEEMF decentralized office, the DREEF of Bongolava will be involved in managing the project during its design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of the project • Technical support • Financial opportunities • Institutional support

Key stakeholders	Mandate	Role in project execution
Regional Directorate of Livestock, DIRTOPO, DIREAU...)	<p>will support targeted capacity building of DREEF's technical capabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These other offices will be part of the project steering committee according to affected resources. They benefit from the strengthening of their technical capacity and provide support upon disseminating the results. • These decentralized offices will technically facilitate the implementation of project activities on the field. 	
Projects and Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of state programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cofinancing of the project • Funding opportunities for the plans established • Strengthening the project results
Groupement Semis Direct de Madagascar (GSDM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GSDM includes international and domestic organizations involved in the dissemination of conservation agriculture in Madagascar. • It will facilitate trade between SCV operators, one of the sustainable land management practices. Some members will benefit from targeted technical capacity building from the project to strengthen the ecoagriculture ownership and dissemination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of the project through the members' activities and participation • Support the dissemination of SCV best practices • Channels for awareness of SLM
Bongolava region through its General Secretariate and the Department of Regional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The region is primarily responsible for the overall planning of regional development. For this purpose, the region is supported by the Department of Regional Development. This Department guides the achievement of short, medium, and long-term regional development plan (RDP). • The region will be included in the project steering committee. It will support the planning, monitoring and evaluation of project results. It will support the institutional sustainability of the project's activities by including them into the Regional Development Plan (RDP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of the project • It will facilitate the implementation process for the project activities at the regional level • It will receive targeted technical training and will help disseminate the project results. • Technical support • Financial opportunities • Institutional support
District of	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First entity in charge of compliance with 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will facilitate the administrative

Key stakeholders	Mandate	Role in project execution
Bongolava	the population's civil rights through administrative facilitation	<p>process for the project including to issues related to land tenure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing of the project • Formalization of the structure created in the context of project
Decentralized local authorities (communes and fokontany)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social mobilization, definition of the Commune Development Plan (CDP) and search for funding opportunities for the plan through collaboration and partnership • These authorities will ensure the effective participation of local communities through community mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will facilitate the effective internalization of the SLM concept through its regulation • They will support the planning, monitoring and evaluation of the project's results • They will enjoy targeted technical and institutional capacity from the project. • Co-financing of the project's overall framework • Technical Support • Financial opportunities • Institutional support
National Environment Office (ONE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONE is primarily responsible for implementing and monitoring environmental impact assessments for major projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will ensure the implementation of some project activities, such as the development of monitoring indicators related to the environment, and provides technical guidance to streamline the framework of interventions • Technical support
Local civil society organizations (NGOs, associations working in the field of land resource management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These organizations are partners on the ground in implementing the developmental activities, depending on their competence and capacity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will support the project in advocacy and especially in disseminating project achievements • Technical support
Local grassroots community (traditional authorities, grassroots organizations)	Leaders of opinion and change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will ensure the effective involvement of local communities in the project • They will support information and awareness actions. • Sustainability of project activities
Private sector (rice mill, seed producers, veterinarians, etc.) and social sectors	Economic and social development at the local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the supply of inputs, connections to markets, etc. • Contribute to the economic sustainability of the project's initiatives
Research centers (FOFIFA LRI)	Technical innovation and knowledge management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research centers will ensure a better understanding of the practices advocated

Key stakeholders	Mandate	Role in project execution
		<p>in the project to promote the technical sustainability of the project results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will endorse the relevance of the disseminated techniques as part of the project • They will also spark innovation by sharing study results and the project's progress.
Gendarmerie and Police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They ensure public order • They secure assets in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil stability for sustainability and security of project assets.

To ensure project sustainability, the project will help to reinforce SLM practices across social and institutional levels, including households, communes, districts, and regions. The completion of all project activities will address these four levels from the bottom up to facilitate ownership. This approach will be enhanced by providing all the stakeholders with the information and knowledge they need to adapt to various challenges and opportunities, such as climate change, land degradation, and loss of biodiversity.

The project will also strengthen institutional sustainability by ensuring the involvement of local public and private institutions throughout the project and integrating SLM considerations into decision-making processes.

Powers and decision-making authority associated with the project reside in:

- Decentralized governmental offices, the national police, and the regional, municipal, and local authorities for policy decision
- The *fokonolona*, which makes up the "decentralized territorial authority" at Fokontany level, draft the *dina* or collective agreements initially for community work and the implementation procedures. Since the phenomenon of *dahalo* increased in 2009, the *dinabe* was specifically set up to restore security. It is a convention involving several communes, unlike the *dina* that applies locally only. The *Dinabe* determine the decision-making process and the implementation procedures for community activities, especially those related to security. Along with the *dinabe*, some execution and control structures were established, represented by the *Voromahery*, made up of elected representatives from each small village. The *Voromahery* are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of villages and livestock³⁷.
- These local institutions will be represented on the steering committee at the regional level, and on the SLM committee at the local level. The steering committee will be created to control project actions and ensure their effectiveness. The SLM committees will be involved in the planning and execution of this project. These local committees will anchor the project in the local governance systems in these areas, thus ensuring the continuity of operations even after the project is completed.
- The technical and organizational capacities of stakeholders' institutions will be strengthened as needed. For example, stakeholders will work to strengthen local laws as needed to facilitate and encourage SLM practices. Similarly, the project will formalize expectations and the commitment of participants with an SLM code of conduct. Furthermore, in each of the project's seven communes, the

³⁷ According to the study on the "assessment of the ecosystem services" by Holy Raharinjanahary and al, p.21.

project will aim to raise the SLM awareness of members of the commune development councils, who will also be asked to (i) consider integrating SLM activities into the communes' action plans and (ii) issue formal endorsements or commune orders to facilitate and strengthen SLM initiatives—particularly those of this project.

- In order to buttress the project's socio-economic and environmental sustainability, the project will improve the rational management of water resources and soil. Dissemination of an agro-ecological approach will lead to an overall improvement of farms, the restoration of former slash-and-burn plots, and increased agricultural yields, which create favorable conditions for sustainable agriculture and improved living conditions for the population. Therefore, this approach will reduce further agricultural encroachment into forests by improving agricultural efficiency on currently cultivated land (i.e., supplanting extensive agriculture with intensive agriculture).
- The project will achieve financial viability by aligning the SLM plans³⁸ and its actions with the RPD and the CDP. The involvement of decentralized government offices will also facilitate the integration of project activities into their annual budget plans. Enhanced exchanges will lead indirectly to the search for additional financial partnerships.

Stakeholder empowerment and commitment at all levels, both men and women, have been and will remain the primary strategic element in project implementation. In this context, stakeholders' involvement in the whole project design and implementation process is paramount.

The purpose of the awareness actions carried out under the project will be to provide all stakeholders and the larger public with an overview of the project to be implemented, and achieve behavioral change.

It will focus on the need to establish a participatory management system to ensure project success. That will be a way to communicate the achievements of the first project by organizing special days for outreach and awareness. It will also facilitate the collection of comments from all project stakeholders.

In this specific context, the launching workshops in which participants are more targeted, public outreach days will be held at the region and at the seven communes directly affected by the project.

B.2 Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, including consideration of gender dimensions, and how these will support the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund/NPIF) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

Apart from those mentioned in the PIF, the particular outcome expected from the project is to improve target communities' resilience to cope with the effects of drought, land degradation, and climate change. The project will contribute significantly to these outcomes through community land management resulting in, among other things, the introduction of agro-ecological techniques to maintain soil moisture, mitigate drought, reduce greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, and sequester carbon in the soil. These techniques also ensure the improvement and rational use of fertility, which then becomes a means to fight land degradation. These agroecological techniques emphasize land rehabilitation approaches that improve incomes for women. In addition, these ecological techniques will help to produce more high-quality food, which will improve the nutrition of women and children.

Reduced use of fires for pest control and residue removal will decrease emissions, sequester carbon in the soil, and build soil fertility. (Improved soil carbon also traps soil-borne and water-borne chemicals, such as the POPs targeted by the Stockholm Convention.) Moreover, the introduction of a participatory management

³⁸ A plan that considers the ecological and socioeconomic conditions of a given territory for the implementation sustainable activities to restore lands and support communities' needs.

system helps communities coordinate to maintain ecological balance, which helps mitigate drought. Furthermore, by improving agricultural efficiency, the project will decrease deforestation resulting from agricultural encroachment. Indeed, the forest plays an important role in improving rainfall and sequestering carbon. The project allows local populations—including vulnerable members of the community—to increase the fertility of their primary source of productive capital: the soil. Moreover, the participatory and inclusive approach of the project facilitates the participation of the entire community. Special attention will be given to the participation of women and to women-led livelihood options. Women currently comprise about 43% of participants and more than 60% of institutional representatives, indicating that the project strongly incorporates women’s views and interests. Gender issues will continue to be considered during the execution and monitoring of the project’s activities.

The study demonstrated that 6 out of the 7 communes involved in the project have more than 50 gullies (*lavaka*). By promoting SLM practices, the project will reduce erosion and improve productivity while generating social and environmental benefits. Yields for rain-fed farming fell by 50% over the past decade. For irrigated agriculture, the implementation of the project can recover 15% of plots left fallow due to the degradation of land resources, which will have significant social impacts as there is a division of labour between men and women in irrigated agricultural and other production system. The men prepare the land, whereas the women sow, harvest, and process. Since these different groups are involved at all stages of the rural production system, they will be equally involved in the project’s activities, and the training and local organization will take note of gender-specific needs.

B.3. Explain how cost-effectiveness is reflected in the project design:

The project’s cost-effectiveness is demonstrated through its design, which uses targeted interventions to address multiple barriers simultaneously, particularly: (i) *weak local institutional and individual capacities*, (ii) *unsustainable practices and pressure on natural resources*, and (iii) *lack of knowledge management and dissemination approaches*. The project considers institutional and technical capacity development at local, communal, and regional levels. The project design brings together pilot activities as demonstration for capacity development through learning-by-doing and provision of livelihood options for local communities.

The project is cost-effective as it will help at the same time to address the issue of SLM in a participatory manner, leading to restore the region’s ecosystemic functions and services before a critical level of degradation is reached. Implementation of this project will help save approximately 663,955,572 USD per year in ecosystem services and 22,145,816 USD in the value of savannas.

The project also achieves cost-effectiveness by generating multiple environmental and socioeconomic benefits. It is estimated that 50% of the arable lands are *tanety* in the Bongolava region. These *tanety* are particularly vulnerable to water erosion. Therefore, if corrective actions are not taken, production losses from food crops, reforestation, tree crops, etc. will lead to considerable economic losses. Therefore, the GEF investment will help implement SLM and avoid economic losses that would otherwise create a multitude of negative socio-economic consequences.

B.4. Project innovation, sustainability and scaling up

a) Project innovation: The project is innovative as it considers bottom-up approach to capacity-building through training and policy development at local level. This is in line with the OECD approach to aid effectiveness in fragile states as described in their publication “Concepts and Dilemmas in State Building in Fragile Situations: From fragility to resilience”. As indicated in that report, “the general consensus is that a bottom-up process is more efficient, more enduring and more likely to strengthen the social contract. The theory, appropriately, is that the delivery of public goods should become more effective as supply gets closer to the source of demand. Together, capacity and resources, institutions, legitimacy and an effective political process combine to produce resilience. Resilience derives from a combination of capacity and resources,

effective institutions and legitimacy, all of which are underpinned by political processes that mediate state-society relations and expectations.” In addition, as it is indicated in the PIF, the project combines scientific and participatory approaches in ways that have not been attempted in this part of Madagascar. It develops a multi-level approach, strategically targeting decision-makers at household, commune, district, and regional levels. It also promotes an adaptive management approach, thereby enabling farmers to be able to adapt to future opportunities and challenges, including climate change.

b) Durability: To ensure the sustainability of the project, a multi-level approach is considered especially at the household, commune, district, and regional levels. The achievement of all project activities will address these four levels from the base to facilitate ownership. The project will also build stakeholders’ knowledge and capacities for increased resilience and adaptability to various opportunities and challenges, such as those resulting from climate change.

The project’s institutional sustainability will be achieved through the involvement of local institutions with long-term commitments to SLM in the region. These organizations will be fully integrated into the project, including its decision-making bodies. Key institutional sustainability elements include:

- The fokonolona: State, regional, and local authorities—including the mayor and the National Gendarmerie—operate under fokonolona. The fokonolona constitutes "local or regional authority" at Fokontany. It develops *dina* or collective agreements initially for community work and implementing rules. Since increased dahalo in 2009, *dinabe* was specifically set up to restore security. This is an inter-municipal agreement, unlike *dina*. *Dinabe* determines the decision-making and implementation arrangements for community activities, especially those related to security. *Dinabe* established structures to execute and control, as represented by *Voromahery*, consisting of elected representatives from each hamlet. The *Voromahery* are primarily responsible for ensuring the safety of villages and livestock.
- These local permanent structures will be reinforced through a regional steering committee and local committees in sustainable land management. The regional committee will be established to oversee the project and ensure their effectiveness. Committees for sustainable land management, will be involved in the planning and implementation of actions in the framework of this project. The establishment and operationalization of these local committees will facilitate anchoring the project in the local governance system in the project areas, thus ensuring continuity of operations even after the project’s completion.
- Strengthen policies: There will be improvement of local laws and the Code of Conduct through the development and implementation of plans for sustainable land management. In this context, members of the municipal councils of development of each municipality will be sensitized and supported so as to integrate the plans in their action plan and receive municipal orders to strengthen efforts of SLM to be promoted by the project.

The technical sustainability will be ensured by strengthening the technical and organizational capacities of all stakeholders.

Socio-economic and environmental sustainability: the implementation of the project will have positive impacts on the sound management of water resources and soil. Dissemination of agroecological approach, leading to an overall improvement of farm lands or restoration of slash and burn plots and increased agricultural yields will create favorable conditions for sustainable agriculture and improved living conditions. Therefore, the search for new land to compensate low productivity threatening the integrity of the resources will be limited.

The financial viability of the project will be through the integration of SLM into regional and communal development plans (PRD and PCD). The PRD and PCD will ensure financial resources and the mobilization of partnerships to implement SLM. The involvement of the decentralized state services also facilitates the integration of project activities in their annual budget plan.

c) **Replicability:** Component 3 specifically targets the project’s replicability.

C. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M & E PLAN:

Please see Annex G for a full description of the project’s M&E activities.

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&E plan is consistent with UNEP procedures and the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress, including the tracking of activities and financial resources, as agreed in semi-annual work plans and related budget plans, (b) proactively identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c) assess and report on progress towards, and final achievement of planned outputs, outcomes, targets and indicators as outlined in Annex A: Project Logical Framework.

When appropriate and possible, other stakeholders (NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, private sector and community members) will participate in monitoring activities and mechanisms, and be invited to provide views and perceptions during evaluations.

The M&E plan includes an inception report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term and final evaluations.

The project’s M&E plan will be presented and finalized in the Project Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

The project’s logical framework (presented in Appendix A) includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators, along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix I, will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification are summarized in Appendix H.

M&E related costs are fully integrated in the overall project budget, with all costs for collection of monitoring information being embedded in the activities.

Table 12: Costed M&E workplan.

M&E activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Financing	Co-financing	Timing
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Management Unit (PMU) • UNEP 	\$5,000		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP 	None		1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • Executing 	None (included in		Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project

M&E activity	Responsible Parties	GEF Financing	Co-financing	Timing
progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	agencies and consultants	management budget)		Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/Operational Reports to UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU 	None		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and Local Coordination Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP • National partners 	\$20,000		Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU 	None		Annually
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP 	None		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP • National partners 	None – covered by field costs of project.		As appropriate
Mid Term Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP • External consultants 	\$15,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP • External consultants 	\$20,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU 	\$15,000		Annually
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP 	None		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU 	None		Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PMU • UNEP 	\$15,000		Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		\$90,000		

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for data collection and upstream reporting of monitoring information and overall progress towards achieving results to the Steering Committee and the UNEP/GEF on a semi-annual basis. Additional Project monitoring will be provided by UNEP with support from the Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation within the UNEP/ UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in Nairobi.

The monitoring and evaluation plan will be reviewed and revised as needed during implementation of the project's M&E system. Revisions will also ensure that all stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities with respect to monitoring and evaluation. The PMU is in charge of the daily project monitoring, but other project partners will also have the responsibility to collect specific information to monitor the project indicators. It is the responsibility of the project's operational national director to report to UNEP on any delays and difficulties encountered during the implementation, so that corrective measures and appropriate support can be adopted in a timely manner.

The project steering committee will receive periodic reports on the progress and achievements and shall convey to UNEP any necessary or suggested revisions to the logical framework and monitoring and evaluation plan. Via the Task Manager, the project control will ensure compliance with UNEP's and GEF's policies and procedures. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project results, give feedback to project partners, and review the procedures to ensure the quality of the technical and scientific publications. Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan, which will be communicated to all partners during the inception workshop. The Task Manager supervision will focus on monitoring outputs without neglecting the monitoring of the project's financial management. The steering committee will assess the progress of the project delivery at an agreed interval.

UNEP and the project's partners will regularly monitor the project's risks and assumptions. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the technical report. The project's coordination and delivery mechanisms will also be monitored. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure the appropriateness and cost-effectiveness of the way financial resources are used.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Annex J. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

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 form. For SGP, use this [OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Mrs Christine Edme	Director General of Environment GEF Operational Focal Point	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY	30/05/2015

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 CEO endorsement/approval of project.

Agency Coordinator, Agency	Signature	Date (Month, day,	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address

Name		year)			
Brennan Van Dyke, Director, GEF Coordination Office, UNEP		August 5, 2016	Adamou Bouhari, Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation	+254207623860	Adamou.Bouhari@unep.org

Annex A: Logframme

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
COMPONENT 1: Institutional Development and Capacity Building						
Outcome 1.1. All the communal structures and stakeholders are capacitated and have decided to implement SLM measures	Number of communal SLM implementation plans with clear identification of land tenure issues, the role of women approved at communal, district, and regional levels, with necessary resource commitment and priority measures	Existing regional and local development plan, but no specific SLM measures	Adoption and approval of SLM plans with clear consideration of gender (e.g. role of both men and women) in all 7 communes	SLM plans with clear indication of land tenure issues, the role of women adopted and operational in all 7 communes Reliable delivery of committed resources in at least 5 of 7 communes Priority SLM measures	Integration of SLM measures targeting both men and women in municipal and regional development plans. Regular site visits by ANAE field staff Checks of communal records	<i>Assumption:</i> Sufficient benefits to sustain local commitment <i>Risk:</i> Changes in political priorities might reduce external support resources Land tenure issue

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	effectively implemented			including those specially targeting women implemented in all 7 communes		
Output 1.1.1. All the communal structures and stakeholders are capacitated and have decided to implement sustainable land management (SLM) measures	Number of SLM committees which include women and vulnerable groups representatives and conflict management mechanism, established and operational	No specific committees for sustainable land management in the region	Operational SLM including conflict mechanism committees in all 7 communes with equitable representation of women and vulnerable group	All SLM committees which include conflict resolution mechanism demonstrate sufficient sustainability (e.g., resources) and good governance (effectiveness, participation, representation including of women and vulnerable group, transparency, accountability, and dispute resolution including on land tenure)	Receipt of establishment report, including approvals, bylaws, and priority SLM activities Site visits by ANAE field staff and district staff Governance guidelines and checklist Record-keeping guidelines and checklist	<i>Assumption:</i> on-going local stakeholder interest and support <i>Risks:</i> influential people might feel threatened by new committees or might undermine legitimacy capacities for good governance might degrade over time
Output 1.1.2. Participator	Number of participative local assessments	Widespread awareness of	Participative diagnostics operational in	SLM Diagnostics and reporting integrated into	Communal diagnostic plans and annual	<i>Assumptions:</i> Reliable data gathering

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
<p>y diagnostics for an improved understanding of the threats, constraints, and opportunities related to SLM conducted at the 7 participating communes</p>	<p>and awareness activities on the threats, constraints including land tenure (including conflicts) , and opportunities associated with current land management practices</p> <p>Number of criteria and metrics agreed and accepted by stakeholders including those which indicate gender equality in SLM</p> <p>Number of accountability framework for gathering and recording agreed SLM</p>	<p>symptoms, but not of causes or courses of action</p> <p>No formalized local agreement on SLM criteria</p> <p>No local tracking system of SLM issues</p>	<p>all 7 communes</p> <p>Standardized criteria and metrics for SLM monitoring and reporting based on the diagnostic</p>	<p>decision-making for all 7 communes and associated districts and regions</p>	<p>diagnostic reports</p> <p>ANAE staff review of district and regional aggregation reports</p>	<p>Reporting of authentic data</p>

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference <i>(status quo)</i>	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	metrics					
Output 1.1.3. Adaptive SLM implementation plans for each of the 7 communes	Number of adopted adaptive SLM local, plans which including foreseeable contingencies and gender related issues	No existing participatory land-management plans	Adaptive SLM Plans which include gender related issues approved for each of the 7 communes	Viable operational SLM plans that continue to adapt effectively to circumstances and consider specific situation of women and vulnerable groups	Plans filed with ANAE, district, and region; updated annually Site visits by ANAE staff and district staff	<i>Assumption:</i> Land users retain sufficient land tenure, land-use discretion, and capacity <i>Risk:</i> Large economic, environmental, and social shocks (e.g., disasters, strife), if any, might transfer to land management; repeated or sustained shocks might overload the resilience plans
COMPONENT 2: Implementation of sustainable land management practices						
Outcome 2.1. Land degradation reduced and the living	Number of hectares brought under SLM.	<5% of locally managed lands under SLM.	At least 20% (840 k2) of locally managed lands under SLM within each	At least 40% (42 450 Ha) of locally managed lands under SLM within each	Annual community monitoring reports	<i>Assumptions:</i> Mobilization and effective participation of

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
conditions improved across the project's intervention areas	<p>Number of households with special emphasis on women representation trained and are implementing SLM</p> <p>Number of SLM technologies with impacts on net households incomes in the 7 communes</p> <p>One (1) demonstration/ learning site per commune with women involvement and piloting</p>	<p>Currently, under-ground carbon stock in Bongolava area is estimated at 60 tons CO₂ e/ha.</p> <p><5% of households implementing SLM</p> <p>Avg annual income: MGA 2,000,000 (~\$670); and. 90% range: MGA 100,000 – 20,000,000 (~\$33 – 6,700)</p> <p>No SLM learning site in the project</p>	<p>commune</p> <p>At least 10% (2800) households including women trained and substantially implementing SLM (extensively or intensively)</p> <p>At least 3 potential income generating activities mostly for women related to SLM identified and support to local communities agreed upon in each communes</p>	<p>commune</p> <p>At least 20% (5600) households substantially implementing SLM (extensively or intensively) as result of training or awareness raising received</p> <p>3 SLM related income generation technologies implemented which lead to revenue of at least 20% of local community (50% at least women) increased as result</p> <p>SLM measures to be piloted in demonstration sites are implemented in all the 7 pilots and outcome of the pilot documented.</p>	<p>Site visits by ANAE staff and district staff</p> <p>Re: areas: SLM-practicing households matched with areas listed in cadasters (where available) or field measurements (where cadasters not available)</p> <p>Re: living conditions: Randomized household interviews/ surveys</p>	<p>stakeholders</p> <p>Land users will use SLM benefits to improve their living conditions</p>

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	SLM measures as appropriate for agriculture, pastoralism, and energy (including protection channels, contouring, dam reinforcement, agroforestry, and afforestation)	area	1 SLM learning site identified in each of the 7 communes, site characterization conducted and SLM measures to be piloted identified			
Output 2.1.1. Agreed urgent measures implemented in each of the 7 communes	Number of urgent measures identified and implemented by local communities with equitable representation of women	No measures are implemented to address land degradation in the project area	All urgent SLM priorities including those related to women identified and being actively addressed, in each of the 7 communes	At least 2 types of urgent SLM measures (with special attention to women and vulnerable groups participation) identified for each commune during the participatory communal plans development implemented	As defined by participatory communal plans	<i>Risks:</i> Some urgent issues are not amenable to project intervention (e.g., <i>dahalo</i>)

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	<p>Number of ha rehabilitated through urgent measures</p> <p>Number of households benefiting from urgent measures</p>	<p>82% equivalent of 248729 ha of land cultivated in the 7 communes are vulnerable to degradation</p> <p>0 households</p>	<p>60% area to be rehabilitated through urgent measures are treated in each of the 7 communes</p> <p>8000 households are capacitated to implement urgent measures and have received necessary project support</p>	<p>At least 2 500 Ha of land to be urgently rehabilitated</p> <p>Approximately 30% of the population (49% men and 51% women) (eq. 8000 households) benefited from project support</p>		

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
Output 2.1.2. Household farming activities reinforced to support the SLM assets	Amount or resources invested to support farming activities including those led by women Number of household including led by women supported	Currently farmers are not benefiting from any support The 7 communes of intervention currently count 28347 households (according to studies result elaborate during PPG) and 141,874 inhabitants which 70,597 men and 71,2	60% of total payments for interim support including to women led measures disbursed and 100% of technical and organizational support for interim measures in each commune 3402 households whose farming activities reinforced	All payments for interim support completed and phased out 5670 households supported in the 7 communes	Verification that transparency measures have been implemented Report Interviews of recipients	<i>Risks:</i> Corruption or extortion in the distribution system

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
		77 women (according to appendices J) Household typology based only on agricultural lands availability				
Output 2.1.3. Local land users and land management committees trained in SLM, conflicts management and small	Number of people including women trained on SLM and sustainable agriculture Proportion of trainees on SLM and sustainable	No specific training conducted for SLM	10% of adult population trained on SLM and sustainable agriculture in each of the 7 communes of which, at least 30% women At least 3 trainers trained	30% of adult population trained on SLM and sustainable agriculture in each of the 7 communes of which, at least 30% women At least 8	Training records; names spot-checked with members of the community ANAE staff attend at least 1 training presented by local community	<i>Risk:</i> Trainings may cease after end of project

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
sustainable agricultural business development	agriculture who are women Number of local trainers on SLM and sustainable agriculture with clear indication of gender equality trained		on SLM and sustainable agriculture in each commune which, at least 30% women	trainers trained on SLM and sustainable agriculture in each commune of which, at least 30% women Local trainers have presented at least 2 trainings and are positioned to present at least 1 local training per year on SLM and sustainable agriculture	trainers	
Output 2.1.4. Concrete appropriate ecofriendly SLM measures for agriculture, pastoralis	Number of demonstration/ learning site per commune with women involvement and piloting the ecofriendly SLM measures as	Demonstration sites: 0 Hectares under SLM: <5% including 78% related to protection	1 operational demonstration / learning site per commune and piloting the ecofriendly SLM measures as appropriate for agriculture, pastoralism and energy	Local demonstration / learning sites locally managed, maintained, and operated	ANAE records for demonstration site Committee records Community	<i>Assumption:</i> Local engagement and interest

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
m, and energy production demonstrated and adopted (As identified in Table 5: CEO ER)	appropriate for agriculture, pastoralism and energy	channels , 16% to contour setting up, 3% to dams	At least 5% of adults including women per commune have visited a demonstration / learning site	At least 20% of adults per commune have visited a demonstration / learning site	interviews	
	Number of visitors to the demonstration/ learning site	reinforcement and 3% to afforestation. Households using SLM to generate income : <5%	At least 1 exchange visit to other communes' demonstration / learning sites	At least 4 exchange visits to other communes' demonstration / learning sites	Site visits	
	Number of Hectares of land under SLM		5% of locally managed land under SLM in each of the 7 commune	20% of locally managed land under SLM in each commune		
	Number of Households included those led by women using		10% of households including those led by women per commune adopting SLM to increase revenues	30% of households adopting SLM		

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	SLM to increase income			to some extent		
Output 2.1.5. Participatory SLM monitoring and evaluation system covering agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic parameters.	<p>Number of SLM indicators developed and monitored with participation of stakeholders including women</p> <p>Number of representative and consensus in local meetings for SLM indicators monitoring development and agreement</p>	No SLM indicators monitoring system exist at local level	<p>Local committees actively participating in or conducting at least 60% of the SLM monitoring</p> <p>Local committees which include women representatives effectively tracking/recording all SLM components associated with local activities</p> <p>Local committees which include women representatives proactively and transparently</p>	<p>Local committees actively participating in or conducting 100% of the SLM M&E components</p> <p>Local committees effectively tracking/recording all SLM M&E components associated with local activities</p> <p>Local committees proactively and transparently present SLM M&E measures to community</p> <p>SLM M&E information is integrated into</p>	<p>Review of committee records</p> <p>Comparison of committee records with evidence from site visits</p> <p>Community interviews</p>	<p><i>Assumption:</i> Local engagement and sufficient local capacity</p> <p>Future Regional Development Plans will provide sufficient funding for on-going M&E</p> <p><i>Risk:</i> Local communities might not see the value of continued, post-project M&E</p>

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
			present SLM monitoring measures to community SLM M&E informs some local decision-making	local decision-making		
COMPONENT 3 : Knowledge Management						
Outcome 3.1. Stakeholders are committed to SLM at all level	Number of project publications and or materials documenting lessons learn Number of farmers including at least 40% women in neighboring communes adopting SLM practices Number of measures	<5% SLM in neighboring communes Regional Development Plans do not currently incorporate SLM	Photos, videos, and interviews have been conducted at inception and at least annually in each commune so to track the impacts of the project SLM activities (e.g., <i>before, during, and after</i> photos). For each of the project's 7 communes, members of at least 1 neighboring community have visited the	Project achievements presented by members of participating communes to the 22 neighboring communes At least one project site visit has been conducted for each of the 22 neighboring communes, with arrangements and hosting conducted by members of the participating	Reviews of project-tracking documents, photos, videos, etc. Reviews of media to be shared Field visits and interviews in neighboring communes	<i>Assumptions:</i> Interest of neighboring communes Receptivity for inclusion in Regional Development Plans

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	taken to incorporate and disseminate the SLM practices in subsequent Bongolava Regional Development Plans		demonstration / learning site The project team has formally established the criteria and guidelines for inclusion SLM in regional development plans	communes Finalized document of the achievements and best practices adopted in the 7 communes SLM practices have been incorporated into at least one Regional Development Plan, including plans and resources for dissemination		
Output 3.1.1. Project achievements released in the form of video, manuals, guidelines, maps, etc.	Number of communication and dissemination materials (documents, videos, etc.) produced and disseminated	N/A, though distribution channels exist (e.g., radio)	“How to” materials created and actively being distributed	Multi-media materials—including materials on overall project successes and best practices—available and disseminated Local	Reviews of media to be shared Field visits and interviews in neighboring communes	<i>Assumption:</i> Interest, mobilization, and participation of stakeholders

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
				community participants creating and disseminating content in ways that will continue post-project (e.g., radio shows; routine meetings with other communes to exchange ideas)		
Output 3.1.2. Strategy to expand measures across Bongolava Region	Number of measures taken by participating communes for dissemination of achievements Number of measures which include women participation taken at the Regional level to expend SLM measures	N/A	Experience sharing activities conducted at regional level with participation of all communes and regional entities Draft of the dissemination strategies document available for each participating commune and for the region	Each commune executing strategies which recognized women role for dissemination of achievements Bongolava region developed and adopt strategies or measures which consider women participation to expand SLM.	Action plan for dissemination strategies Project activities report Samples of communications being disseminated Site interviews	<i>Assumptions:</i> Participating communes will be motivated to disseminate successes after the end of the project Regional Development Plans and other baseline programs will provide sufficient funding for post-project dissemination of successes

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
Output 3.1.3. Broad and high-level commitment to expand and replicate SLM measures	Number of Regional Development Plans incorporating SLM Number of Public commitments for continued, dedicated, predictable resources for expanding SLM	Preliminary commitments as evidenced in this proposal—e.g., via co-financing	Each commune and the Region adopt via its Council SLM replication strategies Each communes and the Region adopt financial measures to support investment on SLM replication	Partners are actively promoting and supporting efforts to expand and replicate SLM Each communes and the region agreed on how to implement and finance SLM replication strategies	For each commune, Community SLM Committee submits commitment form to PMU (ANAE)	<i>Assumption:</i> Sustained political will and honoring of commitments
Project Management and Monitoring-Evaluation						
Outcome Effective and efficient Bongolava grasslands Plateau project management	Number of activities with satisfactory rating Number of Progress and financial report produced in timely	0%	At least 50% of project activities completed	100% of project activities completed	Project Report	<i>Assumptions:</i> The M&E plan accurately reflects progress toward the PDO and does not exclude significant factors

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
	manner					Accurate measurement and reporting
Output 1. Operational project management structure established	Number of project facilities fully operational	N/A	<p>Central and local project offices staffed, financed, and operational</p> <p>Annual performance feedback reports provided to offices, including feedback on governance (e.g., reporting, accessible dispute resolution, transparency, etc.)</p> <p>End-of-project transition plans in place; execution started (i.e., incorporation of partners who will take</p>	All managerial and administrative functions transferred to baseline programs and local partners	<p>Office visits</p> <p>Review of office records</p> <p>Discussions with counterparts in baseline programs</p>	<p><i>Assumption:</i></p> <p>Regional Development Plans and other baseline programs will provide sufficient funding for post-project operations</p>

Overall Project Objective: To build stakeholders capacity to reverse land degradation and improve the living conditions in the Bongolava Region of Western Madagascar through participatory sustainable management of the grasslands						
Overall project goals	Indicators	Baseline Reference (<i>status quo</i>)	Goals (tracking milestones)		Sources of verification	Assumptions and Risks
			Mid-term 2017	End of Project 2019		
			over functions at end of project)			
Output 2. Effective project monitoring and evaluation established	Number of satisfactory project progress tracking tools produced in time	M&E plan and project tracking tool	50% progress and on track for achievement of PDO Mid-term evaluation completed or under way	100% progress and PDO achieved Final evaluation completed or under way	Monitoring Report Evaluation of Workshop Report Mid-term review End-of-project review	<i>Risks:</i> Procurement issues related to the quality or timeliness of contracted work Complete, accurate, consistent, and timely recording/reporting of progress

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).

GEF Secretariat Comments	UNEP and Partners responses	References
Please clarify the output 1.1.2 "participative understanding of the baseline". It is expected that the baseline will be defined during the project preparation (PPG).	The output 1.1.2 is reformulated to clarify what is really expected, which is understanding of threats, constraints and opportunities related to SLM	Annex A Logframe output 1.1.2
We suggest to maintain the three indicators for the component 2: Nb of ha under SLM, Nb of persons trained, and change in household	The three indicators are maintained. Targets are set in relation to these indicators	Annex A Logframe outcome 2.1. Indicators

revenues in the 7 communes.		
At CEO endorsement, we expect some metrics, baseline values, and targets (Number of hectares under conservation agriculture, Nb of beneficiaries, carbon measurements, soil fertility, income increase, for instance).	The baseline section is now strengthen with metrics	Section A.4 CEO Endorsement document.
Some risks are mentioned. A comprehensive risk assessment is expected at CEO endorsement.	Additional Risk are now identified in addition to those already in the PIF	Table 8 Section A.6 of the CEO endorsement document
At CEO endorsement, please detail the mode of coordination with other related initiatives	The section on coordination with other related initiatives is now strengthening with details table on ongoing initiatives and how the project will coordinate with those.	Table 9.A and 9.B section A.7 of CEO Endorsement.
At CEO endorsement, confirm UNEP cofinancing	UNEP Cofinancing letter provided	Cofinancing letters package
- Confirm cofinancing at CEO endorsement; - Detail implementation arrangements and develop operational partnerships; - Provide a comprehensive risk analysis; - Provide a Monitoring Plan, with indicators, metrics, baseline values, and targets.	Confirmed cofinancing letters provided Detailed implementation arrangement provided Risk analysis amended as indicated above M&E plan provided	Cofinancing letters package Annex H Table 8 Section A,6 Annex G

Annex C: Status of PPG implementation

A. Summary of PPG activities.

During the PPG stage, various consultation meetings and engagements have been conducted with stakeholders. These have been achieved through regional workshops, local consultations, and through one-on-one meetings for data collection, which informed the thematic studies conducted on: (i) biophysical considerations, (ii) an evaluation of ecosystem services of Bongolava land resources, and (iii) socioeconomic conditions in 7 communes of Bongolava region. Consultative workshops with key stakeholders included (i) the inception workshop held at the Regional Capital of Bongolava, (ii) the project thematic studies and design validation workshop, and (iii) local workshops help in the 7 communes.

Documents produced during the PPG in addition to the CEO endorsement package include:

- Assessment report of the biophysical situation in the 7 communes of the project area in Bongolava region
- Assessment report of the ecosystem services of the land resources in 7 communes of Bongolava region

- The socioeconomic assessment in the 7 communes of Bongolava
- Minutes of various stakeholders meetings

B. Utilisation of PPG resources: See as separate attached document Annex

<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To Date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
International Consultant	2,743	2,743	0
National Consultants	30,000	30,000	0
Consultants travels	4,588	4,588	0
National Stakeholders consultation workshops	30,160	30,160	0
Project coordination travels for sites visits and consultation with local stakeholders	20,242	20,242	0
Communication and stationnaries	4,200	4,200	0
Total	91,933	91,933	0

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/NPIF Trust Fund or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

ANNEX E: CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS: TOR APPENDIX 7

Component	Grant Amount (\$)	Cofinancing (\$)	Project Total (\$)
International Consultants	0	0	0
National/Local Consultants:	114 973	31 862	146 835
Total	114 973	31 862	146 835

ToR OF Key project staff and organizational chart

National Operational Director (Cofinancing from EA)

- Ensure the planning, implementation and coordination of all activities and project resources at the national level in terms of development of work plans, while respecting the framework of the project for expenses, time and meeting the needs of the whole team (logistics, advisory support...)
- Ensure that any problems are clearly identified and anticipated early enough that risks are assessed and controlled, and that solutions are proposed and the quality of the work to meet the standards and methods are in place.
- Establish close collaboration with project stakeholders to ensure that project activities are carried out within the time and according to the contractual provisions
- Provide progress reports on activities to stakeholders as needed.

- Support the team in preparing the annual work plan
- Ensure adequate communication of activities to stakeholders and ensure the maintenance of good coordination and cooperation at all levels
- Monitoring and supervision of the implementation of activities including those conducted with other partners
- Provide support to UNEP mission and consultants involved in the project, including preparing itineraries, meetings and liaison with UNEP representative to assist with travel and logistical arrangements and contacts at the political level.
- Support the home team in the organizing and, sometimes depending on the context, facilitating regional meetings and workshops, training activities at all levels and exchange visits, according to the annual work plans and the needs felt in the field, and other activities as required.
- Timely submission of project activity and progress reports and disseminate once these reports are approved while maintaining technical and financial project documentation at national level.
- Perform other duties as required.

SLM Assistant (Consultant)

- Assist the team in identifying sustainable land management practices to adapt to the local context.
- Identify training needs of stakeholders in the field of SLM
- Tune up the dissemination approaches and techniques routes to broadcast.
- Develop a budgeted work plan on SLM measures to be implemented at local level.
- Define the necessary studies and to monitor and validate their implementation.
- Provide technical assistance to the entire project team as required.
- Facilitate workshops with technical purpose
- Write the related reports.

Local project coordinator

Reporting directly to the National Project Director, the Coordinator or the Project Coordinator:

- Plan, organize, monitor and control all activities at local level needed to meet all project goals;
- Prepare with local stakeholders the annual work plan of the project and ensure its implementation and monitoring of its implementation with the team and local partners.
- The management of project resources: human, financial, logistical...
- Ensure communication and relationships with all local partners including sustainable land management committees;
- Ensure compliance with the deadline and expenses set forth for the project,
- Draft and finalize all reports to be delivered to the project while meeting deadlines.
- Organize meetings with all the advisory committees of the project and local workshops while coordinating, facilitating and writing their minutes.
- Mobilize all local stakeholders in their participation in the project.
- Ensure adequate communication of project activities at the local level to stakeholders at all levels.
- Perform other duties as required.

Account Assistant

- Ensure the current secretariat (mail management, customer reception, organizing schedules, filing, archiving...).
- Process the general accounting operations (customers / suppliers, making entries, bank reconciliations,...).
- Monitor local financial and administrative management

Local technical assistants Follow and support the technical achievements by stakeholders on the ground at site level,

- Educate and mentor beneficiaries in implementing SLM work
- Collect all the data needed to power the project database and the various reports,
- Ensure communication between the SLM committees, communities and the entire project team at all levels,
- Real-time information on local coordinator, the DREFF and SLM committees on progress and problems encountered and the arrival of potential partners
- Organize activities with stakeholders in the field and information sharing sessions.

Financial Manager

- Supervise management control, treasury or accounting.
- Follow the administrative aspects and human resources of the Bongolava project management unit.
- Write external financial information from partners.

He will be assisted by the head office's finance manager, who will be considered as co-financing from the headquarters.

Drivers

- Driving and Vehicle Maintenance

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (co-financing)

- Ensure updating of monitoring and evaluation system put in place as part of the project.
- Organize data collection in collaboration with the local project coordinator.

Communication Officer (co-financing)

- Organize information collection, sorting, processing and distribution in close collaboration with the Directorate for communication of MEEF and local project coordinator.

ANNEX G: Monitoring and Evaluation Budget and Workplan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP. The project M&E plan is consistent with UNEP procedures and the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy.

Project monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will serve to: (a) monitor and report on implementation progress, including the tracking of activities and financial resources, as agreed in semi-annual work plans and related budget plans, (b) proactively identify implementation gaps over the course of the project implementation that require corrective actions, and (c) assess and report on progress towards, and final achievement of planned outputs, outcomes, targets and indicators as outlined in Annex A: Project Logical Framework.

When appropriate and possible, other stakeholders (NGOs and Civil Society Organizations, private sector and community members) will participate in monitoring activities and mechanisms, and be invited to provide views and perceptions during evaluations.

The M&E plan includes an inception report, project implementation reviews, quarterly and annual review reports, and mid-term and final evaluations.

The project's M&E plan will be presented and finalized in the Project Inception Report following a collective fine-tuning of indicators, means of verification, and the full definition of project staff M&E responsibilities.

The project Logical Framework presented in Appendix A includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators, along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix I, will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification are summarized in Appendix H.

M&E related costs are fully integrated in the overall project budget, with all costs for collection of monitoring information being embedded in the activities.

The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be responsible for data collection and upstream reporting of monitoring information and overall progress towards achieving results to the Steering Committee and the UNEP/GEF on a semi-annual basis. Additional Project monitoring will be provided by UNEP with support from the Task Manager Biodiversity/Land Degradation within the UNEP/ UNEP Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) in Nairobi.

The GEF tracking tools are attached as Annex J. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. As mentioned above, the mid-term and terminal evaluation will verify the information of the tracking tool.

Costed M&E Workplan

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Inception Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Management Unit (PMU) UNEP 	\$5,000		Within 2 months of project start-up
Inception Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP 	None		1 month after project inception meeting
Measurement of project indicators (outcome, progress and performance indicators, GEF tracking tools) at national and global level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU Executing agencies and consultants 	None (included in management budget)		Outcome indicators: start, mid and end of project Progress/perform. Indicators: annually
Semi-annual Progress/Operational Reports to UNEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU 	None		Within 1 month of the end of reporting period i.e. on or before 31 January and 31 July
Project Steering Committee meetings and Local Coordination Committee meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP National partners 	\$20,000		Once a year minimum
Reports of PSC meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU 	None		Annually
PIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP 	None		Annually, part of reporting routine
Monitoring visits to field sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP National partners 	None – covered by field costs of project.		As appropriate
Mid Term Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP External consultants 	\$15,000		At mid-point of project implementation
Terminal Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP External consultants 	\$20,000		Within 6 months of end of project implementation

Type of M&E activity	Responsible Parties	Budget from GEF	Budget co-finance	Time Frame
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU 	\$15,000		Annually
Project Final Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP 	None		Within 2 months of the project completion date
Co-financing report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU 	None		Within 1 month of the PIR reporting period, i.e. on or before 31 July
Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMU UNEP 	\$15,000		Annually, part of Semi-annual reports & Project Final Report
Total M&E Plan Budget		\$90,000		

Project Inception Phase

A Project Inception Workshop (IW) will be held within the first three (3) months of project start-up with the participation of the full project team, relevant GoM counterparts, co-financing partners, and the UNEP Focal Point. A fundamental objective of the IW will be to help the project team to understand and take ownership of the project's goal and objectives, as well as finalize preparation of the project's first annual work plan on the basis of the project results framework and the GEF Tracking Tool. This will include reviewing the results framework (indicators, means of verification, and assumptions), imparting additional detail as needed, and on the basis of this exercise, finalizing the Annual Workplan (AWP) with precise and measurable performance indicators, and in a manner consistent with the expected outcomes for the project.

Additionally, the purpose and objective of the IW will be to: a) introduce project staff to project stakeholders that will support the project during its implementation; b) detail the roles, support services, and complementary responsibilities of UNEP staff in relation to the project team; c) provide a detailed overview of UNEP-GEF reporting and M&E requirements, with particular emphasis on the Annual Project Implementation Reviews (PIRs) and related documentation, the Annual Project Report (APR), mid-term review, final evaluation and financial reportings. Equally, the IW will provide an opportunity to inform the project team on UNEP project-related budgetary planning, budget reviews including arrangements for annual audit, and mandatory budget re-phrasings.

The IW will also provide an opportunity for all parties to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project's decision-making structures, including reporting and communication lines and conflict resolution mechanisms.

The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for project staff and decision-making structures will be discussed again, as needed, in order to clarify each party's responsibilities during the project's implementation phase. A report on the Inception Workshop is a key reference document and must be prepared and shared with participants to formalize various agreements and plans decided during the meeting.

Monitoring Responsibilities and Events

A detailed schedule of project review meetings will be developed by the project management in consultation with project implementation partners and stakeholder representatives and incorporated in the Project Inception Report. Such a schedule will include: a) tentative timeframes for Project Steering Committee meetings (and other relevant advisory and/or coordination mechanisms); and b) project-related M&E activities.

Day-to-day monitoring of implementation progress will be the responsibility of the PMU based on the project's AWP and its indicators. The PMU will inform UNEP and MEEF of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation so that the appropriate support or corrective measures can be adopted in a timely and remedial fashion. The PMU will fine-tune the progress and performance/impact indicators of the project in consultation with the full project team at the IW with support from UNEP Task Manager.

Specific targets for the first-year implementation progress indicators together with their means of verification will be developed at this workshop. These will be used to assess whether implementation is proceeding at the intended pace and in the right direction and will form part of the AWP. Targets and indicators for subsequent years will be defined annually as part of the internal evaluation and planning processes undertaken by the project team. Measurement of impact indicators related to global benefits will occur according to the schedules defined through specific studies that are to form part of the project's activities.

Periodic monitoring of implementation progress will be undertaken by the UNEP Task Manager and GEF Operational Focal Point through six-monthly exchanges with the project implementation team, or more frequently as deemed necessary. This will allow parties to take stock of and to troubleshoot any problems pertaining to the project in a timely fashion to ensure the timely implementation of project activities. The UNEP Task Manager and GEF Operational Focal Point, as appropriate, will conduct yearly visits to the project's field sites, or more often based on an agreed upon schedule to be detailed in the project's Inception Report/AWP to assess first-hand project progress. Any other member of the Steering Committee can also take part in these trips, as decided by the Steering Committee. A Field Visit Report will be prepared by the UNEP Task Manager and GEF Operational Focal Point and circulated no less than one month after the visit to the project team, all Steering Committee members, and UNEP-GEF.

Annual monitoring will occur through the PSC meetings. This is the highest policy-level meeting of the parties directly involved in the implementation of a project. The project will be subject to Project Steering Committee meeting at least once every year.

The first such meeting will be held within the first twelve (12) months of the start of full implementation. The project proponent will prepare an Annual Project Report (APR) and submit it to UNEP GEF Task Manager at least two weeks prior to the PSC for review and comments.

The APR will be used as one of the basic documents for discussions. The Project Coordinator will present the APR to the PSC, highlighting policy issues and recommendations for the decision of the participants. The

Project Coordinator will also inform the participants of any agreement reached by stakeholders during the APR preparation on how to resolve operational issues. Separate reviews of each project component may also be conducted if necessary. UNEP has the authority to suspend disbursement if project performance benchmarks are not met. Benchmarks will be conveyed by UNEP to project stakeholders at the IW, based on delivery rates and qualitative assessments of achievements of outputs.

The Terminal PSC Review is held in the last month of project operations. The Project Coordinator with guidance from UNEP is responsible for preparing the Terminal Report and submitting it to UNEP GEF and Country Operational Focal Point. It shall be prepared in draft at least two months in advance of the PSC meeting in order to allow review, and will serve as the basis for discussions in the PSC meeting. The terminal PSC review considers the implementation of the project as a whole, paying particular attention to whether the project has achieved its stated objectives and contributed to the broader environmental objective. It decides whether any actions are still necessary, particularly in relation to sustainability of project results, and acts as a vehicle through which lessons learned can be captured to feed into other projects being implemented.

Project Monitoring Reporting

The Project Coordinator, with guidance from UNEP-GEF team, will be responsible for the preparation and submission of the following reports that form part of the monitoring process and that are mandatory.

- A **Project Inception Report (IR)** will be prepared immediately following the IW. It will include a detailed First Year/AWP divided in quarterly timeframes detailing the activities and progress indicators that will guide implementation during the first year of the project. This work plan will include the dates of specific field visits, support missions from the UNEP Task Manager or consultants, as well as timeframes for meetings of the project's decision-making structures. The IR will also include the detailed project budget for the first full year of implementation, prepared on the basis of the AWP, and including any M&E requirements to effectively measure project performance during the targeted 12-month timeframe. The IR will include a more detailed narrative on the institutional roles, responsibilities, coordinating actions, and feedback mechanisms of project-related partners. In addition, a section will be included on progress to date on project establishment and start-up activities and an update of any changed external conditions that may affect project implementation. When finalized, the IR will be circulated to project counterparts who will be given a period of one calendar month in which to respond with comments or queries. Prior to the IR's circulation, the UNEP/GEF will review the document.
- The **Annual Project Report (APR)**. It is a self-assessment report by the project management to the project partners and provides input to the UNEP Regional Office reporting for UNDAF process and the Results-Oriented Annual Report (ROAR), as well as forming a key input to the PSC Review. An APR will be prepared on an annual basis prior to the PSC Review, to reflect progress achieved in meeting the project's AWP and assess performance of the project in contributing to intended outcomes through outputs and partnership work. The format of the APR is flexible but should include the following sections: a) project risks, issues, and adaptive management; b) project progress against pre-defined indicators and targets, c) outcome performance; and d) lessons learned/best practices.
- The **Project Implementation Review (PIR)** is an annual monitoring process mandated by the GEF. It has become an essential management and monitoring tool for project managers and offers the main vehicle for extracting lessons from on-going projects. Once the project has been under implementation for one year, a PIR must be prepared by the project management and submitted by UNEP to the GEF. The PIR should then be discussed in the PSC meeting so that the result would be a PIR that has been agreed upon by the project, the Implementing Partner, and the UNEP. The PIRs are collected,

reviewed, and analyzed by the UNEP TM prior to sending them to the GEF by UNEP-GEF Coordination Office.

- **Half year (July – December) Progress Reports** outlining main updates in project progress will be provided every six month to the UNEP/GEF Task Manager. The January – June progress report stand as the PIR described above.
- **Specific Thematic Reports** focusing on specific issues or areas of activity will be prepared by the project team when requested by UNEP-GEF, or the Implementing Partner (MEEF). The request for a Thematic Report will be provided to the project team in written form by UNEP and will clearly state the issue or activities that need to be reported on. These reports can be used as a form of lessons learned exercise, specific oversight in key areas, or as troubleshooting exercises to evaluate and overcome obstacles and difficulties encountered. UNEP is requested to minimize its requests for Thematic Reports, and when such are necessary will allow reasonable timeframes for their preparation by the project team.
- **A Project Terminal Report** will be prepared by the project team with guidance from UNEP TM during the last three (3) months of the project. This comprehensive report will summarize all activities, achievements, and outputs of the project; lessons learned; objectives met or not achieved; structures and systems implemented, etc.; and will be the definitive statement of the project’s activities during its lifetime. It will also lay out recommendations for any further steps that may need to be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability of the project’s activities.
- **Technical Reports** are detailed documents covering specific areas of analysis or scientific specializations within the overall project. As part of the Inception Report, the project team will prepare a draft Reports List detailing the technical reports that are expected to be prepared on key areas of activity during the course of the project, and tentative due dates.

Where necessary, this Reports List will be revised and updated, and included in subsequent APRs. Technical Reports may also be prepared by external consultants and should be comprehensive and specialized analyses of clearly defined areas of research within the framework of the project and its sites. These technical reports will represent, as appropriate, the project’s substantive contribution to specific areas, and will be used in efforts to disseminate relevant information and best practices at local, national, and international levels.

Project Publications will form a key method of crystallizing and disseminating the results and achievements of the project. These publications may be scientific or informational texts on the activities and achievements of the project in the form of journal articles or multimedia publications. These publications can be based on Technical Reports, depending upon the relevance and scientific worth of these reports, or may be summaries or compilations of a series of Technical Reports and other research. The project team in consultation with UNEP, the GoM, and other relevant stakeholder groups will also plan and produce these publications in a consistent and recognizable format. Project resources will need to be defined and allocated for these activities as appropriate and in a manner commensurate with the project’s budget.

Independent External Evaluation.

The project will be subjected to at two reviews/evaluations as follows. A Mid-Term Review will be undertaken at the mid-point of the project lifetime. The Mid-Term Review will determine progress being made towards the achievement of outcomes and will identify course correction if needed. It will focus on the effectiveness, efficiency, and timeliness of project implementation; will highlight issues requiring decisions and actions; and will present initial lessons learned about project design, implementation, and management.

Findings of this review will be incorporated as recommendations for enhanced implementation during the final half of the project's term. The organization, ToRs, and timing of the mid-term review will be decided after consultation between UNEP and ANAE. The ToRs for this Mid-Term Review will be prepared by the UNEP or otherwise decided based on UNEP Evaluation Office guidance and Task Manager assessment of the project execution environment. The management response of the review will be uploaded to the UNEP corporate systems as necessary. The GEF Tracking Tool for the project will also be updated during the mid-term review cycle.

A Terminal Evaluation managed by UNEP Evaluation Office will take place three months prior to the terminal Steering Committee meeting, and will focus on review of project overall performance and lessons learned. The Evaluation will also look at impact and sustainability of results, including the contribution to capacity development and the achievement of global environmental goals. The Evaluation should also provide recommendations for follow-up activities and requires a management response. The ToRs for this evaluation will be prepared by the UNEP Evaluation Office in consultation with the UNEP Project Task Manager. The GEF Tracking Tool will also be completed during the final evaluation.

Audit Clause

The GoM through will provide the UNEP with certified periodic financial statements, and with an annual audit of the financial statements relating to the status of UNEP/GEF funds according to the established procedures set out in the Programming and Finance manuals. The audit will be conducted according to rules, and audit policies by the legally recognized auditor of the GoM, or by a commercial auditor engaged by the GoM/ANAE.

Learning and Knowledge Sharing

Results from the project will be disseminated within and beyond the project intervention zone through a number of existing information sharing networks and forums. In addition, the project will participate, as relevant and appropriate, in networks relevant to the project.

The project will identify and participate, as relevant and appropriate, in scientific, policy-based and/or any other networks, which may be of benefit to project implementation through lessons learned. The project will identify, analyze, and share lessons learned that might be beneficial in the design and implementation of similar future projects. Identifying and analyzing lessons learned is an on-going process, and the need to communicate such lessons as one of the project's central contributions is a requirement to be delivered not less frequently than once every twelve (12) months. UNEP-GEF shall provide a format and assist the project team in categorizing, documenting, and reporting on lessons learned. Specifically, the project will ensure coordination in terms of avoiding overlap, sharing best practices, and generating knowledge products of best practices in the area of PA management.

Annex H : Project Institutional Arrangement and stakeholder participation

A- Institutional arrangement

The National Agency responsible for the overall project execution is the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF). It will be supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as The Global Environment Facility (GEF) Agency and ANAE as project executing partner entrusted by the Ministry to take responsibility the day to day management of the project but also coordination of project activities and partners. Teams from both institutions shall establish the overall policy framework in which the project is, as well as the conditions that should guide in project planning and implementation. Thus, both national and international institutions will be primarily responsible for achieving the project objectives through the quality control of the achievements and adequate allocation of resources. They will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness (extent and quality of results) and efficiency (cost and time) of the project implementation. They are the only ones authorized to allow any changes to the basic project design if guided by project Steering Committee.

The project Executing Partner is ANAE: It will have overall responsibility for achieving the project goal and objectives, with the support of MEEF and UNEP. To coordinate this project, two project directors will be appointed to represent the MEEF and ANAE. The latter, will be UNEP's interlocutor in the context of this project execution and supervise ANAE in the project execution. S/he will also report on the work progress to the MEEF and UNEP. The Director General of ANAE work in close collaboration with the Project Director from MEEF and shall sign and approve all project technical and financial reports and requests for financial advances. The UNCCD focal point will monitor interventions of co-financiers on behalf of the MEEF and submit or delegate submission to ANAE reports and request to UNEP.

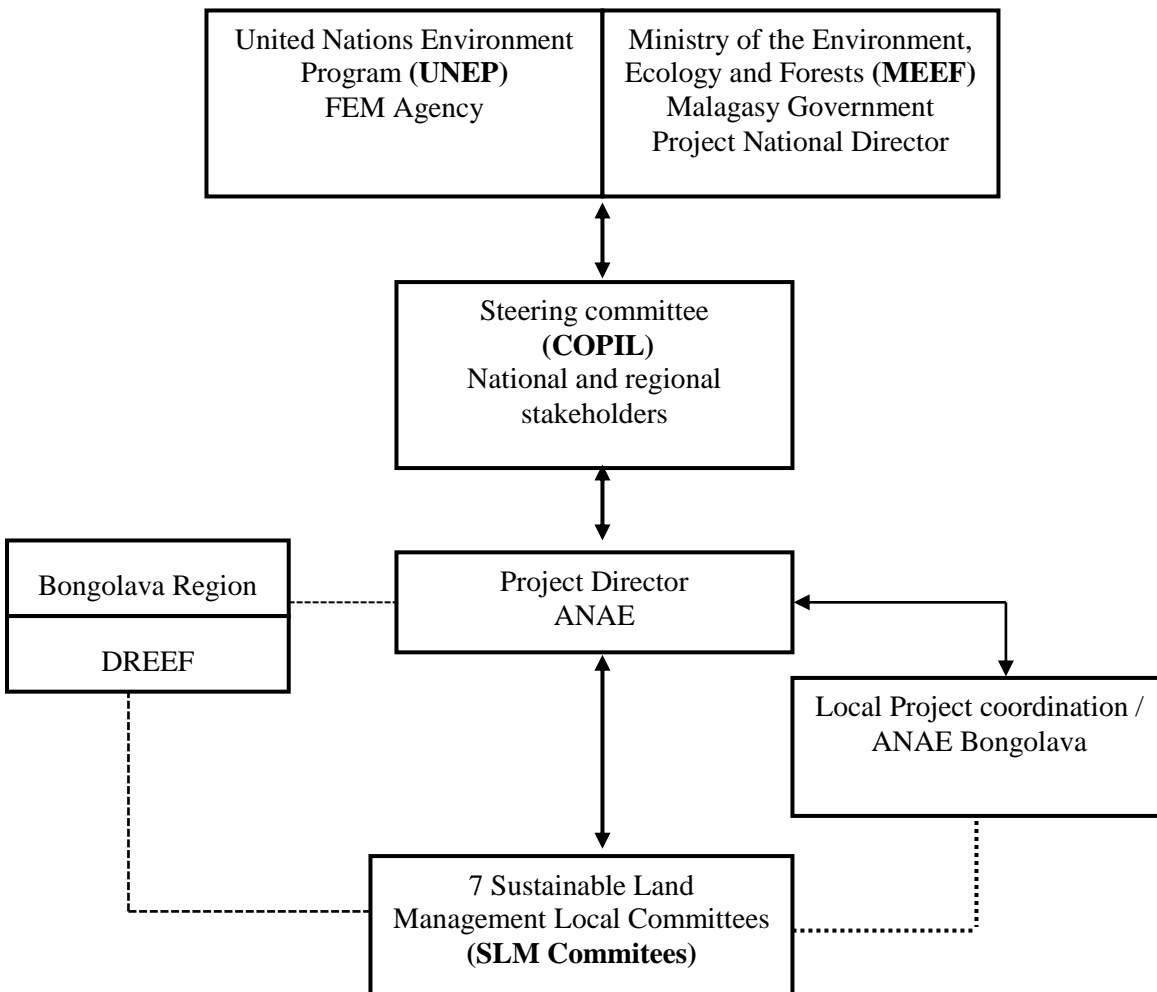
To ensure stakeholder participation and guidance to the project and its scope, a **Steering Committee** to bring together key stakeholders will be created. Its role will be to approve the overall planning of project technically and financially, to recommend the strategic direction of the project according to the objectives, provide executive leadership for the project and facilitate any changes with stakeholders. The steering committee is scheduled to meet once a year in ordinary session to validate the audit report, the annual report and the annual work plan. Any need for special session can be suggested by the Steering Committee and approved by the MEEF and UNEP. Members who will make up this committee will be finalized during the project inception workshop, however, due to their strategic role, the Committee will include among others: MEEF, MARD, MINELPA and MINEAU, ANAE as national executing partner that have expertise in the promotion of sustainable land management practices, UNEP Task Manager, umbrella farmers' associations, regional authorities and local decentralized authorities from seven communes.

At its annual meeting, the Steering Committee will review the progress of the project, approve project work plans at the beginning of each year and approve the project's annual activity reports

A local project coordination unit (ULC) will be set up in Tsiroanomandidy, Bongolava region. This unit will be headed by a local coordinator, supported by three local technical assistants. The said ULC role will be

enhanced by other actors and other national experts (consultants) to be recruited for specific tasks of limited duration. Additional partnerships might also benefit the implementation and execution of the project. Such partnerships will be facilitated and formalized via memoranda of understanding, letters of agreement, and letters of commitment. Administratively, the team will also include an accounting assistant, a driver and a security guard. The monitoring & evaluation and communication will be ensured by the permanent ANAE team. The recruitment of the whole project team will follow ANAE’s recruitment procedures as project manager, subject to the approval of MEEF and UNEP. The organization and responsibility of every member of this team are appended to this document (Appendix 5).

FIGURE 1: INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT



Locally, 7 Sustainable Land Management (SLM Committee) committees will be set up. They include local stakeholders. The final member will be finalized at project start up but will include among other things commune representatives, villages (“*fokontany*”) representatives, local technical partner like NGO, association representatives and beneficiaries representatives.

These committees will be the main local implementing partners of the project. They will be tasked with ensuring compliance with established guidelines and strategies to support the mobilization of human resources and communications between stakeholders, monitoring work, ensuring consistency of plans and actions among the different project components. They will also ensure linkage with other projects that mutually strengthen their actions, make critical decisions that have a significant impact on risk and provide expertise and advice.

The **DREEF** and the **Bongolava Region**, as a key project leader, will be consulted for all actions to be implemented in this project.

Figure 1 above shows the implementation structure of the project at all levels.

ANAE through its local unit project coordination will produce an annual work plan and an annual budget plan in collaboration with the SLM committees for operational activities. These plans will be the basis for allocating resources to activities on the ground. Once the steering committee approves the annual work plan, it will be submitted to UNEP and MEEF for consideration and subsequent funding. The ANAE team will be also responsible for the periodic project technical and financial reportings as well as publication of technical project outputs and key lessons learned.

The project ULC will produce quarterly and annual technical and financial reports, and possibly stage report or any other report as requested by MEEF or UNEP. These reports summarize the progress of the project compared to the expected results, explain any significant deviation to give details of adjustments and be the main communication mechanism for monitoring project activities.

The experts and other stakeholders specialised in unsustainable land management practices will provide technical inputs when necessary to the project.

Financial management procedures and audit:

The financial management and procurement as part of this project will be governed by ANAE's procedures. These contracts include the purchases of technical and commercial services with the project's partners. The project financial management will be conducted in accordance with the Project Cooperation Agreement which will be signed with UNEP.

B- Stakeholder participation (Also see Table 10 CEO Endorsement document)

During the development of the project document, several consultations were held with stakeholders at national, regional and local levels. Early in the development of the document, three thematic studies were conducted to complete the baseline information for the project development. These studies include: a) socio-economic study in project area b) biophysical study and c) ecosystem services study. The terms of reference of these studies were validated by stakeholders, to whom the results were presented and validated through

local mini-workshops involving all the 7 communes. Furthermore, a workshop was organized at regional level with involvement of stakeholders at all levels to validate the project intervention logics.

During the project execution, the project stakeholders will be: the ministries concerned by land degradation including MEEF, MARD, MINELPA and MINEAU, ANAE as executing agency, agencies that have expertise in the promotion of sustainable land management practices, umbrella farmers' associations, regional authorities and local decentralized authorities from seven communes involved in the project and the decentralized services of the state in Bongolava region. To make effective participation, multi-level committees will be set up so that all stakeholders can actually play their respective roles in implementing of this project.

The role of key project stakeholders is describe in Table 10 CEO endorsement and summarized below:

- The MEEF provides overall coordination of the project by providing strategic guidance in the implementation of all activities.
- The National Association of Environmental Actions (ANAE), under the supervision of the MEEF, coordinates and leads the implementation of operational activities. That role rightfully comes to the ANAE, given its proven experience in the field of soil and water conservation / rural development in the dissemination of agroecological environmentally friendly technologies as well as technical training and support to beneficiaries since its inception in 1991. For this purpose, it could value all its achievements in technical terms and capitalize all its experiences including those conducted around protected areas, upon completing the present action.
- NGO partners and experts will conduct activities requiring specific skills including research, training and education. This responsibility will be assigned to them because of their experience in the areas of intervention and their relationship with the population.
- Local administrative and traditional authorities will help in social mobilization activities given their reputation locally and their power for advocacy. In addition, they will be integrated in any communication process to promote the project activities. They also play a facilitating role in the decisions to be taken for local beneficiaries. Decentralized local authorities will be involved in monitoring and evaluating this action, through the communal development consultants. For this purpose, they will benefit from the training provided as part of this intervention.
- The Steering Committee will work with ANAE and local SLM committees to guide project execution establish avenues for dispute and conflict resolution, ensure adequate participation of disadvantaged or vulnerable including women participation.
- Other projects and initiatives: The project through ANAE, Local project coordination Unit and MEEF and UNEP as necessary, will ensure collaboration with other projects and partners to ensure synergy, complementarity and exchange of lessons and experience. When necessary, agreement and MoU will signed with these initiatives to strengthen the collaboration. Join meetings and consultation with projects and other initiatives in the region will be conducted to ensure synergy and explore possible opportunities for joint efforts and resources. A platform for collaboration with these initiatives will be utilized if existing or otherwise suggested.

Annex I: Deliverables and schedules

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
Component 1. Institutional Development and Capacity Building		
Outcome 1.1. All concerned local stakeholders are able and committed to implementing SLM measures		
Output 1.1.1. All the communal structures and stakeholders are capacitated and have decided to implement sustainable land management (SLM)		
1.1.1.1. Building awareness / information on the SLM concept	Community consultations Quarterly reports	<i>Ad hoc</i> consultations Quarterly reports quarterly
1.1.1.2. Studying SLM committees' roles	Terms of reference of the study on the roles of the SLM committees	Consultant hired: 2016-Q3
1.1.1.3. Presenting the study results	Consultant's study report Workshop report	Local consultation carried out and report available: 2016-Q3
1.1.1.4. Establishing the SLM committees at the 7 communes	Reports on the 7 workshops to establish SLM committees Members of the committees determined	SLM Committee for the 7 communes set up by 2016-Q3
1.1.1.5. Validation of the SLM committees by regional authorities	Minutes of validation of SLM committees Report of Committees validation workshop	SLM Committee operational by 2016-Q4
Output 1.1.2. Participatory diagnostics for an improved understanding of the threats, constraints, and opportunities related to SLM conducted at the 7 participating communes		
1.1.2.1. Implementation of the various local diagnosis studies	Terms of reference of the studies	Consultants hired: 2016-Q2
1.1.2.2. Presentation of the results of these participatory diagnosis studies on SLM	Report of presentation workshops Paper studies	Study document available: 2016-Q3

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
Output 1.1.3. Adaptive SLM implementation plans for each of the 7 communes		
1.1.3.1. Drafting the SLM plans	Extensive local consultations and participatory workshops	Drafted SLM plans: 2016-Q4
1.1.3.2. Presenting these plans and defining the actions to be completed	Presentation and finalization of SLM plans as approved by respective SLM committees, endorsed by local communities and regional authorities, and submitted to the ANAE project	SLM plans finalized: 2016-Q4
Component 2 : Implementation of sustainable land management practices		
Outcome 2.1. Land degradation stopped and the living conditions improved across the project's intervention areas		
Output 2.1.1. Agreed urgent measures implemented in each of the 7 communes		
2.1.1.1. Prioritization of locally defined urgent issues and remedial measures	Report on workshop to determine urgent measures including the schedule of implementation	2016-Q3
2.1.1.2. Execution of remedial actions	Project files on urgent measures available Implementation Planning budgeted	2016-Q3 through 2017Q2
Output 2.1.2. Household farming activities reinforced to support the SLM assets		
2.1.2.1. Participatory determination of criteria for eligibility, related governance, phasing out, etc.	Letters of agreements with SLM committees	2016-Q3
2.1.2.2. Provision of agreed supports	ANAE central and field documentation SLM committees' documentation (as appropriate/ agreed)	2016-Q3 through 2018-Q4
Output 2.1.3. Local land users and land management committees trained in SLM , conflicts management and small sustainable agricultural business development		

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
2.1.3.1. Hiring consultant	ToRs and contract(s)	2016-Q3
2.1.3.2. Identifying training needs	Needs assessment report	2016-Q4
2.3.3.3. Preparing training materials and organizing training	Materials and training schedules	2016-Q4
2.1.3.4. Conducting training	Trainings/ training logs/ attendance records	2016-Q4 through 2019-Q1
2.1.3.5. Community members participate in colloquia / conferences / regional and international seminars	Attendance; presentations; summaries from attendance; ANAE and SLM committee records	2016-Q4 through 2019 Q2
Output 2.1.4. Concreate appropriate ecofriendly SLM measures for agriculture, pastoralism, and energy production demonstrated and adopted (As identified in Table 5: CEO ER)		
2.1.4.1. Formalizing execution partners	Contracts, LoAs, MoUs, etc.	2016-Q4
2.1.4.2. Identifying the pilot sites	Discussions with local authorities and SLM committees, leading toward formal, secure land-use agreements (e.g., leases)	2016-Q4
2.1.4.3. Establishment of multi-sectoral technical committee	Broad discussions focusing on relevant stakeholders—including technical experts (water, NRM/ SLM, soil) and those in current and intended value chains— leading to formal establishment of the committee	2016-Q4
2.1.4.4. Multi-sectoral technical committee reviews and endorses project tools	Revisions, suggestions, and endorsements	2016-Q4
2.1.4.5. Establishing the pilot sites	<u>Before formation of SLM committees:</u> Finalization of secure land-use agreements and any permitting as needed; extensive mapping and	2016-Q3 through 2017

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
	<p>recording of initial conditions (photos, videos, soil samples and cross-sections, groundwater levels, soil structure, plant survey, etc.); access improvements (e.g., roads, gates, fences as needed); signage; identification of sources of labor/ plants/ etc.</p> <p><u>After formation of SLM committees:</u></p> <p>Planning; earthworks as needed; improvements as needed (e.g., bore-wells, water storage); planting and other execution of local SLM plan</p>	
2.1.4.6. Joint ANAE and local administration of pilot sites, including site visits and exchange visits	On-going monitoring; record-keeping; maintenance; organizing and managing site/ exchange visits; ensuring role accountabilities; equipment accountability/ security	2016-Q2 through 2018
2.1.4.7. Transition to complete local administration of demonstration sites	Ensured capacities and institutional frameworks (good governance); steady-state O&M plan; protections against <i>elite capture</i> of equipment or resources	2018-Q1 through 2019-Q2
2.1.4.8. Local implementation assistance	Distribution of SLM guidance materials; <i>ad hoc</i> visits to participants' properties to check on progress and help answer questions/ address problems; assistance to SLM committees in over-coming obstacles (e.g., facilitating access to equipment/ labor; providing guidance on	2016-Q4 through 2019-Q2

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
	accessing and strengthening value chains; etc.)	
Output 2.1.5. Participatory monitoring and evaluation system of SLM covering agricultural, environmental, and socio-economic parameters		
2.1.5.1. Local consultations and drafting	Consultation summaries; drafts and edits	2016-Q3
2.1.5.2. SLM M&E plans—including links to decision-making—reviewed and endorsed by SLM committees	Formally endorsed SLM M&E plans leading to integration in SLM plans, committee/ community roles, etc.	2016-Q4
2.1.5.3. Initial geo-reference mapping for project sites	Site-specific baselines for M&E and later communications (see also 2.1.4.5.)	2016-Q4
Output 3.1.1. Project achievements released in the form of video, manuals, guidelines, maps, etc.		
3.1.1.1. Hiring the consultants	ToRs and contracts	2016-Q4
3.1.1.2. Designing the tools and communications tools	Iterations of tools and communications from discussions with the SLM committees, local governmental partners, and the multi-sectoral technical committee	2016-Q4 through 2018-Q3
3.1.1.3. Documentation of project interventions and progress (photos, video, M&E record-keeping, interviews, etc.)	As indicated in the M&E and communication plans (documents, photos, etc.)—e.g., regular photos (e.g., monthly) of the demonstration sites from the same location and perspective	<i>Ad hoc</i> 2016-Q3 through 2019-Q2; and regularly in accordance with the communication plan
Output 3.1.2. Strategy to expand measures across Bongolava Region.		
3.1.2.1. Organizing and/ or contributing to relevant conferences and workshops	At least one organized conference per year. Contributions to at least one additional conference per	2017-Q1 through 2019-Q2

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
	year.	
3.1.2.2. Research study on dissemination strategy for the SLM measures (including local consultations and drafting of report)	ToRs; contract; drafted report; drafted presentations of report	2017-Q3
3.1.2.3. Finalization of dissemination strategy report via participatory, inclusive workshops (SLM committees), followed by presentation to local and regional authorities	Report; endorsed communication dissemination strategy; workshops; presentations	2017-Q3
3.1.2.4. Organizing workshop with authorities in the 19 communes not directly affected by the project	Records of workshops (content; attendees; etc.) and post-workshop summaries	2017-Q4
3.1.2.5. Organizing national (ministerial/ departmental) visits to project sites	Visits (locations; attendees; etc.) and post-visit summaries	2017-Q4 through 2019-Q2
3.1.2.6. SLM committee members visit non-participating communes to discuss project/ SLM	Visits (locations; attendees; etc.) and post-visit summaries	2017-Q4 through 2019-Q2
3.1.2.7. Dissemination of project materials (videos, manuals, photos, etc.) to surrounding communes	Numbers and types of communication materials produced according to communication plan; numbers and types distributed and recipients according to distribution plan	2018-Q1 through 2019-Q2
3.1.2.8. Organizing exchange visits among project sites for the 19 communes	Visits (locations; attendees; etc.) and post-visit summaries	2018-Q1 through 2019-Q2
Output 3.1.3. Broad and high-level commitment to expand and replicate SLM measures.		
3.1.3.1. Iterative discussions for incorporation of SLM measures	Discussion summaries leading to formal incorporation of SLM	2016-Q4 through 2018-Q2

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
into Bongolava Regional Development Plan	measures into RDP.	
3.1.3.2. Formally agreed (between governmental entities and communities) minimum levels of resource support from national and regional levels	Either written into RDP and budget (preferred) or via formal MoU/ LoA.	2018-Q3/4
Output 4.1.1. Operational project management structure established		
4.1.1.1. Ensuring appropriate permitting/land security	Required permits and a formal letter from the regional government assuring that all required permits have been obtained and the designated land use is secure.	2016-Q3
4.1.1.2. Project-management procurement (facilities, equipment, materials)	Facilities, equipment, supplies, and materials sufficient to administer project effectively and efficiently. Documented rationale for non-local procurement if/ when relevant. Full, auditable procurement records.	2016
4.1.1.3. Recruitment and contracting of human resources/ staff	Full staffing w/ auditable recruitment and staffing contracts/ records. Documented rationale for any non-local hires.	2016-Q3
Output 4.1.2. Effective project monitoring and evaluation established		
4.1.2.1. Conduct participatory M&E	Reporting as per M&E plan	2016-Q3 through 2019-Q2
4.1.2.2. External evaluations or project	Mid-term and end-of-project	Mid-term: 2017-Q4

ACTIVITIES	DELIVERABLES	SCHEDULE
(mid-term and final)	review reports	End-of-project: 2019-Q4
4.1.2.3. Organizing workshop to present and share the results	Workshop content; records of details (dates, attendees, locations, etc.); summaries of workshop(s)	2017-Q4 and 2019-Q3
4.1.2.4. Publication of Lessons Learnt and other project documents	Publications on project results	2016 Q4 through 2019 Q2

Annex J: Tracking Tools (Attachd as separate Exel sheet)

Annex K: OFP Endorsement Letter: Attached

Annex L: COFINANCING LETTER: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE (Letters attached as separate file).

Ambararatabe local government

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Ambararatabe

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against Desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of USD 6,000 USD (13,800,000 Ariary).

Ambatolampy local government

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Ambatolampy

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against Desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of USD 5,800 (13,340,000 Ariary).

Ankadinondry Sakay local government

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Ankadinondry Sakay

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against Desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of USD 8,000 (18,400,000 Ariary).

Co-financement MEEMF DGE

Subject: Letter of co-financing the project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management plateaus of western Madagascar in the region Bongolava"

The Ministry of Ecology, Environment, Marine and Forestry (MEEMF) is committed to contribute to the realization of the project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management plateaus of western Madagascar in Bongolava region" as part of the implementation of the Land Degradation component of the UN Convention on the fight against desertification. This contribution will be through the implementation of projects and activities within our office and made by the MEEMF including:

- The coordination and harmonization of interventions,
- Technical training in forestry and soil restoration,
- Support for the planning and monitoring evaluation
- Support for the dissemination of acquired
- And public investment (PIP).

The contribution of the Ministry of Ecology, Environment, Marine and Forestry as co-financing amounts is USD two million dollars (\$ 2,000,000) of which five hundred thousand US dollars (500,000 USD) in-cash and one million five hundred thousand US Dollar (\$ 1,5 million) in-kind during the implementation of the project.

Engagement FOFIFA

We undersigned, National Centre for Applied Research in Rural Development (FOFIFA) are committed to contribute to the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on fight against desertification. Therefore, the Centre will implement activities within his mandate in particular by the local FOFIFA research Station in Kianjasoa with technical and scientific advice and dissemination of research results on agriculture, animal husbandry and soil conservation.

The realization of these actions is mobilizing fund valued at up to 350 000 USD or 772 million Ariary, representing the costs of interventions FOFIFA Bongolava in the region whose main partners are:

- The Malagasy State, load structure
- The GSDM, Upland rice seed production
- The SCRiD, improving forages
- ASARECA, improving animal health

Engagement MADR

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development will contribute to the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" through the implementation of activities within its mandate through local offices under the aegis of the Regional Office of Rural Development Bongolava, among which the Agricultural Service Centres (CSA) involved in the various districts of the Bongolava Region, and the implementation of the Letter of Policy of Watershed Protection through the Fund of Maintenance Hydro-agricultural Networks (FERHA)

Among other actions undertaken by local bodies: DRDR, CSA, various Projects and FERHA, some actions related to the objectives of this Project are implemented such as fight against land degradation, reforestation, gullies (lavaka) control, bank protection and any other activity related to sustainable natural resource preservation, capacity building, experience dissemination, support for agricultural production taking account of soil conservation techniques and practice.

The implementation of these measures has mobilized up 2,773 billion Ariary or USD 1,206 million.

Engagement MINEL

The Ministry of Livestock and Animal Protection is hereby agrees to participate in achieving the objective of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on fight against desertification.

Therefore, the Department will contribute to the achievement of the project activities related to Livestock sector, which contribute to the implementation government strategy. The staff of the technical departments at central and regional level will be mobilized for following purpose:

- Capacity building
- Support for the implementation of sustainable land management
- Coordination and harmonization of interventions.

The implementation of these actions will mobilize up funding of 17,000 USD or 51 million Ariary.

Engagement Région Bongolava

We, Bongolava Region, represented by the Secretary General,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" led by the Ministry of Environment,

Ecology and Forestry (MEEF) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and executed as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against desertification, for the implementation of activities under our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized USD 400 000 for four years.

Fihaonana local government

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Fihaonana

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of USD 8,000 (18,400,000 Ariary)

Lettre de co-financement ANAE

Subject: Letter of co-financing the project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management plateaus of western Madagascar in Bongolava region"

The National Association of Environmental Action (ANAE) is committed to contribute to the realization of the project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in the region Bongolava" as part of the implementation of United Nations Convention on Land Degradation component on the fight against Desertification. This contribution will be in-kind and in-cash, through the implementation of the project and activities under our particular function:

- ✓ Project management,
- ✓ Part of planning and monitoring of activities,
- ✓ Technical supervision.

The contribution ANAE as co-financing amounts is nine hundred twenty nine thousand US Dollars (929 000 USD) during the implementation phase of the project which three hundred thousand USD (300 000 USD) in-cash and six hundred twenty nine thousand USD (629 000 USD) in-kind.

Local government Mahasolo

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Mahasolo

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" of the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "Land Degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against Desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of USD 8,100 (18,630,000 Ariary).

MEEF SG

The Ministry of the Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF) is committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management plateaus of western Madagascar in Bongolava Region" as part of the implementation of United Nations Convention on Land Degradation component on the fight against desertification.

This contribution will be through the implementation of project and activities within our office and made by the MEEF through Technical Departments and local agency including:

- Monitoring activities
- Harmonization of interventions,
- Technical training in forestry and soil restoration,
- Support for planning, monitoring and evaluation
- And support for the dissemination of achievements.

The MEEF contribution as co-financing amounts is four hundred thousand US Dollars (400 000 USD) during the implementation of the project.

Tsinjo Imanga local government

We, the local authority of the Municipality of Tsinjoarivo imanga

Represented by the Mayor,

We are committed to contributing to the achievement of the Project "Participatory Sustainable Land Management western plateaus of Madagascar in Bongolava Region" led by the Ministry of Environment, Ecology and Forestry (MEEF), implemented as part of the component "land degradation" of the UN Convention on the fight against Desertification, for the implementation of activities within our mandate.

The realization of our actions mobilized funding in-kind of US 7,900 (18,170,000 Ariary)

Annex M: Environemnt and Social Safeguards: Attached as separate document