REQUEST FOR CEO ENDORSEMENT/APPROVAL

PROJECT TYPE: Medium-sized Project
THE GEF TRUST FUND

Submission Date: 19 March 2008
Re-submission Date:

PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

GEFSEC PROJECT ID: 3363
GEF AGENCY PROJECT ID: NA
COUNTRY(IES): Comoros
PROJECT TITLE: Integrated Ecological Planning and Sustainable Land Management in Coastal Ecosystems in the Comoros (in the three islands of Grand Comore, Anjouan and Moheli)
GEF AGENCY(IES): IFAD
OTHER EXECUTING PARTNER(S): Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environement
GEF FOCAL AREA(S): Land Degradation (60%), Biodiversity (40%)
GEF-4 STRATEGIC PROGRAM(S): LD-SP1, BD (SP4, SP2)
NAME OF PARENT PROGRAM/UMBRELLA PROJECT: SIP

Expected Calendar	
Milestones	**Dates**
Work Program (SIP overall) Work Program (Comoros PIF)	June 2007 Nov 2007
GEF Agency Approval	May 2008
Implementation Start	Jan 2009
Mid-term Review (if planned)	June 2011
Implementation Completion	Jan 2013

A. PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Project Objectives: Address non-sustainable land use practices and concurrent loss of biodiversity through the development and adoption of an ecosystem based approach in Comoros' rural land use planning and development activities.

Project Components	Invest't, TA, or STA	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	GEF Financing		Co-financing		Total ($)
				($)	%	($)	%	
1. Environmental Policy and Planning	TA	• Improved policy and planning frameworks to support SLM through an IEM approach designed to restore/protect biodiversity in production landscapes. • Increased awareness of decision makers of new approaches to sustainable development in the rural areas (SIP IR2). • Promotion of participatory planning and innovative approaches for shared resources. (SIP IR2)	- Policy recommendations implemented - 10% increase in vale of selected environmental "goods and services" - 9 public for a supported for policy makers - 5 policy studies supported - 10% increase in government financial support to PA system management - 3 spatial planning frameworks in rural space (e.g. PDVs) incorporate ecosystem based approach in the planning process	241,000	47.5	266,000	52.5	507,000

2. IEM Plan Implementation	Inv	• A proven SLM/conservation approach that fully integrates ecosystem principles into a diverse range of production landscapes. (SIP IR1) • Increase sustainability of Comoros' national protected area system through the strengthening of existing protected areas and/or reducing pressure on candidate sites currently being considered for future designated protective area status. (SIP IR1)	- 6 IEM plans prepared - 50% of terrestrial project area benefited by investments leading to reduced levels of land degradation - 1,660 ha of degraded land put under sustainable management - 50% of marine project supported area brought under sustainable management practices - 18 small sub-projects implemented in support of IEM - 3 protected areas strengthened in proximity to IFAD project areas	457,000	25	1,398,000	75	1,855,000
3. Capacity Building, Environmental Education & Public Awareness	TA and Inv.	• Village land management associations supported (SIP IR1 and 3) • Selected agricultural centres rehabilitated (SIP IR3 and IR1) • Improved communication, information and education • Environmental awareness raised (SIP IR4)	- 27 cross site visits - 3 training courses - 390 groups of fishermen sensitized - 4 public school curricula developed - 9 (in aggregate) annual EA campaigns implemented in 3 regions (3 per region)	145,000	64	82,000	36	227,000
4. M&E and Information Dissemination	TA and Inv.	• Project impact is monitored. (SIP IR4) • Wider replication of project's positive results is undertaken. (SIP IR4 and IR1) • Increased awareness of the IEM approaches, results, and "lessons learned" derived from the Comoros' experience.	- Operational M&E systems in place - Information strategy elaborated and implemented - Project information disseminated	57,904	61	37,296	39	95,200
5. Project management*				100,000	53	88,800	47	188,800
Total Project Costs				1,000,000	35	1,872,000	65	2,872,000

* Slight adjustment in project management cost (as compared to the PIF) but always within the 10 % threshold

B. FINANCING PLAN SUMMARY FOR THE PROJECT ($)

	*Project Preparation**	*Project*	*Agency Fee*	*Total at CEO Endorsement*	*For the record: Total at PIF*
GEF	0	1,000,000	100,000		1,100,000
Co-financing	51,181	1,872,000			1,923,181
Total	51,181	2,872,000	100,000		3,023,181

***** Please include the previously approved PDFs and PPG, if any. Indicate the amount already approved as footnote here and if the GEF funding is from GEF-3. Provide the status of implementation and use of fund for the project preparation grant in Annex D.

C. SOURCES OF CONFIRMED CO-FINANCING, including co-financing for project preparation for both the PDFs and PPG. (expand the table line items as necessary)

Name of co-financier (source)	*Classification*	*Type*	*Amount ($)*	*%**
IFAD (NSHDP)	Exec. Agency	Grant	1,396,000	74
Government	Nat'l Gov't	Cash/in kind	89,000	4.7
Beneficiaries	Beneficiaries	In kind	87,000	4.6
Diaspora	Others (specify)	In kind	300,000	16
Total Co-financing			1,872,000	100%

* Percentage of each co-financier's contribution at CEO endorsement to total co-financing.

D. GEF RESOURCES REQUESTED BY FOCAL AREA(S), AGENCY(IES) OR COUNTRY(IES)

GEF Agency	*Focal Area*	*Country Name/ Global*	*(in $)*			
			Project Preparation	*Project*	*Agency Fee*	*Total*
IFAD	Land Degradation	Comoros	0	600,000	60,000	660,000
IFAD	Biodiversity	Comoros	0	400,000	40,000	440,000
Total GEF Resources			0	1,000,000	100,000	1,100,000

***** No need to provide information for this table if it is a single focal area, single country and single GEF Agency project.

E. PROJECT MANAGEMENT BUDGET/COST

Cost Items	*Total Estimated person weeks*	*GEF ($)*	*Other sources ($)*	*Project total ($)*
Personnel	82	15,568	12,432	28,000
Local consultants	72	20,016	15,984	36,000
International consultants	12	17,920	14,080	32,000
Office facilities, equipment, vehicles and communications		35,376	37,424	72,800
Travel		11,120	8,880	20,000
Total		100,000	88,800	188,800

F. CONSULTANTS WORKING FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMPONENTS:

Component	*Estimated person weeks*	*GEF($)*	*Other sources ($)*	*Project total ($)*
Local consultants	250	50,700	74,300	125,000
International consultants	95	83,700	154,600	238,300
Total	345	134,400	228,900	363,300

G. DESCRIBE THE BUDGETED M&E PLAN:

The proposed GEF MSP is a "blended" project and the task of its monitoring and evaluation (M&E) will be fully incorporated into the M&E programme associated with IFAD's National Sustainable Development Programme. The monitoring of the MSP will be established on the basis of the Project's logical framework which subsequent to approval will be integrated into the Programme's framework to ensure monitoring consistency between baseline interventions and GEF incremental activities. Monitoring of both the project performance and impact will be conducted in accordance with the indicators and the means of verification set in the consolidated logical framework. Much of the description below describes the Programme's M&E structure, system and processes and reporting. Where relevant, GEF M&E requirements have been explicitly noted.

The tasks associated with the Programme's M&E include: (i) the centralization, organization, consolidation and analysis of internal reports submitted from the contractors, the regional M&E units (URSE) and the national coordinating unit (UCP); (ii) the development and monitoring of programme activities; (iii) elaboration of periodic reports as required by the loan, GEF and other co-financiers; (iv) organization and supervision of baseline studies and thematic surveys to evaluate the Programme impact on the beneficiaries; and (v) methodological support to the three regional M&E cells and communities to faciliate data collection.

Institutional Structure and Responsibilities for M&E

The Programmes'management structure will consist of the following: (i) a national coordinating unit (UCP) at the level of the Union composed of : (a) a national coordinator, (b) budget officer, (c) M& E specialist, and (d) support personnel; (ii) M&E cells established in each of the 3 island's ministries responsible for agriculture, (iii) a *comité national de pilotage* (CNP) that will be composed of the major stakeholders, and (iv) a *comité régional de coordination du programme* (CRCP). In addition, there will be participating government line agencies at both the Union and regional levels, contractors, and participating communities; stakeholders all. For more detail on the Programme's management aspects see Appendix 5.

The UCP's M&E specialist will have overall responsibility for the Programme's M&E activities under the direct supervision of the national coordinator. At the level of the regions (islands), small two person cells (URSE) consisting of one full-time professional and secretary will be integrated in the director general's office of the ministry responsible for production. These regional cells will have the task of directly supervising the execution of the Programme's field activities in conformity with that year's approved PTBA (see below). Each URSE will have administrative and management automony faciliated through control over their respective budget as approved in the current year's PTBA .

The UCP M&E specialist, in close collaboration with the national programme coordinator, will be responsible for preparing: (i) monthly notes, (ii) a quarterly progress report (see below) supported with the necessary recommendations and documentation that will permit the national coordinator to take any decision necessary to ensure that the Programme is meeting its agreed on objectives; and (iii) an annual M&E report in support to the preparation of the Programme's annual activty reports for the past year.

Despite these formal responsibilities it must also be pointed out that internal supervsion of the Programme activities will be established on a permanent basis throughout the life of the Programme (LOP). While it is recognized that overall responsibility for the Programmes's supevision rests with the national project coordinating unit (UCP), monitoring responsibities have also been incorporated into Programme design that will involve the beneficiaries directly in this task (e.g, village communities, contractors, participating unions and federations, financial institutions). Their participation in supervision will be insured through contractual obligations specifiying their role, reporting format and periodicity of report submission.

System and Sources of Information to support M & E

The Programme's system of M&E will consist of: (i) permanent internal monitoring, (ii) periodic internal and external evaluations, (iii) participative analyses and impact studies and research, and (iv) the preparation of the local development plan (PDL) and annual work plan (PAT) with direct participation by the communities.

The main sources information that will "feed" the M&E system are: (i) the M&E participative beneficiary workshops, (ii) baseline studies, (iii) PDLs and PATs elaborated directly with the communities, (iv) documents associated with approved sub-projects, (v) the URSE and UCP reports, (vi) the reports from contracted operators, (vii) impact studies and evaluations contracted to independent institution, (viii) financial monitoring and internal management control by UCP and (viii) supervison mission reports.

Annual Work Plan and Budget (PTBA)

The day to day monitoring of MSP implementation will be driven by the preparation and implementation of the Programme's annual work plan and budget (PTBA). The preparation of the PTBA represents the product of a unified planning process beginning at the community level. As a tool, it will identify the actions proposed for the coming project year and provide the necessary detail to monitor their implementation. Regional PTBAs will be prepared by the island's respective M&E units (URSE) in consultation with representatives from the participating communities facilitated through a series of annual participative planning workshops. The draft regional PTBAs will be reviewed by the Programme's Regional Committee for Programme Coordination (CRCP) before forwarding them to the Programme Coordinating Unit (UCP). Once received and reviewed by the Coordinator, the 3 regional PTBAs will be consolidated and forwarded to IFAD and the Programme's other co-financiers including GEF. The annual work plan will be developed in a manner consistent with the project's logframe to ensure adequate fulfillment and monitoring of project outcomes.

Following MSP approval, the first (and subsequent) year work plan and budget will follow the preparation calendar for the Programme's PTBA.

Reports and Reporting

Project Implementation Report (PIR). The GEF PIR is an annual review process mandated by the GEF. Projects under implementation for a year by the end of June of that year must submit a PIR Report. PIR reports are completed by the executing agency in close collaboration with the project team. A GEF M&E PIR template will be shared with the UCP which will be completed according to the project M&E plan.

Quarterly Progress Reports. QPRs will outline main information and data on programme progress and performance. They should be provided quarterly by the UCP.

Programme Terminal Report (PTR). The Programme Terminal Report will be prepared during the last three months of implementation by the UCP. The PTR is a comprehensive overview summarizing all programme activities, outputs and results, impact, lessons learned, objectives met or not achieved etc. The PTR is the definitive statement of programme's activities but it should include recommendations for any additional measures that could be taken to ensure sustainability and replicability/up scaling of the project outcomes.

Technical reports. The UCP will be required to define from the onset a draft plan and list of expected technical reports on relevant areas of intervention to be developed during programme life. If necessary, technical reports may also be prepared by external consultants and should focus on the specific area of intervention (geographical and//or thematic). The technical report should outline the Programme's contribution to specific areas and can be used as effective dissemination tools of best practices or innovations. Optional publications that can be based on technical reports will need to be defined by the UCP and adequate resources should be allocated as appropriate from the programme funds.

Independent Evaluations. The Programme will be subject to independent mid-term and final evaluations. The **independent mid-term evaluation** will be undertaken in 2009 with the participation of all financial partners. Mid-term evaluation determines progress made towards the achievement of Programme outcomes and should recommend adjustments if any. Mid-term evaluations focus on project effectiveness and implementation efficiency. This evaluation will also outline initial lessons learnt and its findings should be primarily considered for an improved implementation of the Programme. The review will specifically include the evolution of the Programme and the harmonization of the GEF activities into the former. The TORs for the mid-term evaluation will be prepared in consultation between all parties.

The **final evaluation** will take place three months prior to the terminal bipartite review meeting with a similar scope to the mid-term evaluation. However, the final evaluation should focus, in particular, on Programme impact (local and global), results and sustainability. The final evaluation will provide recommendations for follow-up and replication of best practices. The ToRs for this evaluation will be prepared in consultation with IFAD and all key stakeholders.

M&E Manual

An M&E Manual which will be prepared by the UCP within two months of the loan becoming effective. Specific monitoring approach and indicators will be developed and included in this manual which will include indicators identified to faciliate the monitoring and reporting of programme progress contributing to GEF Strategic Objectives (SOs). With respect to the biodiversity activities, the UCP will submit the information required for the GEF biodiversity tracking tools. At the field-level, M&E responsibilities will be the task of the communities themselves as the key participant in the Programme. They will be assisted by each of the island's URSE.

Programme Start-up Activities

During Programme start-up, the UCP will develop criteria for participatory monitoring of programme activities in consultation with key stakeholders subsequent to which appropriate participatory mechanisms and methodology for performance monitoring and evaluation will be established. The UCP will mobilize specialized consultants to faciliate putting into place the M&E system as described above. During the first IFAD supervison mission, M&E related tasks will include: (i) finalizing the logical framework with the other Programme stakeholders; (ii) review the M&E indicators; (iii) identify the required baseline information needed to support the M&E programme; iv draft the required clauses to include in consultants' contracts to ensure they complete their M&E reporting fucntions; and (v) clarify the respective M&E tasks among the Programme's different stakeholders.
Monitoring indicators will be finalized during the start-up period.

Role of IFAD

IFAD will be responsible for the direct supervision of the Programme. It will be the responsibility of IFAD's Country Portfolio Manager to determine the number and timing of supervision missions necessary to ensure the satisfactory implementation of the Programme. These missons will additionally include representatives of the government and co-financiers. Moreover, the Programme will be closely monitored by IFAD through quarterly meetings/teleconferences or more frequently as deemed necessary. The UCP will inform IFAD of any delays or difficulties faced during implementation to ensure smooth implementation.

Technical modalities of Project Monitoring

Technical monitoring will consist of the establishment of environmental baselines and annual monitoring in: (i) up to 6 MSP supported "ecosystems" once these have been defined and agreed to by the local communities, and (ii) the 3 candidate protected areas that are proposed for inclusion in the Project. Under the MSP's planning sub-component, environmental baseline studies are budgeted for supplemented with national and international technical assistance. As part of the studies, appropriate monitoring indicators will be identified to ascertain environmental status of the ecosystems during and subsequent to project interventions. It is likely that these will be surrogate indicators (e.g., bio-indicators) to ensure that these can be monitored by the villagers themselves. Moreover, given the vagaries of the environment (e.g., rainfall) relative to the very short project life, it should not be expected that conclusive evidence of increased "health" of the ecosystem will be forthcoming.

Under the Protected Area sub-component, the WWF-WB scorecards for protected areas will be used to monitor the effectiveness of PA management. These will be modified to make them appropriate to the situation in Comoros and be prepared initially as part of the management plan process. They will subsequently be filled in on an annual basis. These will be the primary tool for capturing the necessary data to address GEF Biodiversity SO # 1.

Table G 1. Monitoring and Evaluation Work Plan

M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeline
Annual monitoring of project progress and performance	UCP and URSE	Annually for first 3 years only
Capacity building and training in M&E activities	National institutions supplemented by national and international TA	will occur in first six months of PY 1 and repeated in PY 2 as remaining sites come on board.
PIRs	UCP and IFAD	Annually
Establishment of environmental baseline and monitoring of MSP-supported ecosystems	National institutions	Baseline established in PY 1, annual monitoring from PY 2 – PY 4, thereafter.
Technical monitoring of MSP-supported PAs using scorecards	National institutions supplemented by national and international TA	Baseline established in PY 1, annual monitoring from PY 2 – PY 4, thereafter.
Technical Reports	Programme team External consultants if needed	Cost incorporated in studies activities and int. TA
Quarterly progress reports	UCP and URSE coordinator	Every 3 months after project start up
Terminal report	Programme team	At least one month before the end of the project
Mid-term external evaluation	External consultants (oversight by IFAD)	Mid-term of project implementation (after 2 years)
Final external evaluation	External consultants (oversight by IFAD)	At the end of project implementation (three months prior to the terminal tripartite review meeting)
Audit	Recognized auditor (oversight by IFAD)	Yearly
Total estimated cost		

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

A. DESCRIBE THE PROJECT RATIONALE AND THE EXPECTED MEASURABLE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS:

Located North of the Mozambican channel between Madagascar and the African contient, the Comoros archipelago is comprised of four main islands: Grande Comore, Anjouan, Moheli, and Mayotte (for purposes of the proposed project the latter island, which is under French jurisdiction, will not be discussed further). The project covers the three islands of Grand Comore, Anjouan, and Moheli, which are characterized by high topographic relief and radial drainage associated with their volcanic origins. Recent population projections (2005) estimate a national population of approximately 800,000 occupying a total land area of 1,826 km2, equivalent to 438 persons per km2. The national economy is dominated by agriculture of which the major exports are vanilla, ylang-ylang, and cloves. Fisheries remain largely artensanal in nature.

The Comoros has a rich biodiversity that includes some 2,000 native plants of which an estimated 33 % are considered endemic. The tropical and sub-tropical moist broadleaf forests of the Comoros represents one of World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) 200 most significant global biomes. Similarly, the country's coastal ecosystems, due to their biological distinctiveness, have been identified by WWF as one of the world's 43 marine priority regions. Despite the global importance of the archipelago's biodiversity, the islands are characterized by large areas of degraded forest habitat (at present there is only an estimated 30% of the original forest area left). Coastal environments similarly appear to be

increasingly at risk. The major threats to the Comoros environment are: (i) deforestation and conversion of forest lands;[1] (ii) accelerlated soil erosion; (iii) the effects of downstream sedimentation contributing to the loss of critical coastal and nearshore marine habitats (coral reefs, marine grassbeds and mangroves); and (iv) non-sustainable fishing practices (e.g., dynamite fishing and "gleaning" of emergent reefs) and its affects of the fishery resources and associated habitat.

Exacerbating the aforementioned impacts on the country's natural resources base are the insidious effects of climate change, which over time are expected to have a negative impact on the country's already vulnerable agriculture and natural resources.

The proposed "Integrated Ecological Planning and Sustainable Land Management in Coastal Ecosystems in the Comoros" Medium Size Project (MSP) provides a unique opportunity for GEF to address many of the Comoros' environmental issues through adopting and integrated ecosystem management approach (IEM); such an approach that would achieve multiple global benefits in the case of the Comoros and other "high" island ecosystems.

The project goal is to address non-sustainable land use practices and concurrent loss of biodiversity through the development and adoption of an ecosystem based approach in Comoros' rural land use planning and development activities.

The project objectives are to support community-led, ecological planning and the subsequent identification and implementation of field and related enabling activities designed to address priority natural resource use conflicts affecting ecosytem "health" and the provision of environmental "goods and services" contributing to losses in economic productivity and human well-being.

The proposed alternative includes three components: (i) Environmental policy planning; (ii) IEM plan implementation; and (iii) Institutional capacity, environmental education and public awareness. The alternative will support the long-term restoration of 6 pilot coastal ecosystems through the development and implementation of integrated ecosystem management plans. The project will specifically put 1,660 ha of degraded land under sustainable management, develop and implement 6 IEM plans to intervene in three protected areas in proximity to IFAD project areas. The project will target long-term sustainability through a number of institutional interventions designed to create an enabling environment. Financing the incremental costs associated with the GEF alternative will build on a strong Baseline Scenario by: (i) supporting the strengthening of existing (and development of new) village-based land management plans; (ii) developing Integrated Ecosystem Management plans to identify and prioritize critical actions of intervention in shared ecosystems; (iii) supporting for the implementation of village and ecosystem level plans. The project will also contribute to institutional capacity building, environmental education and public awareness. The exact nature of activities will be defined in a participatory manner through the preparation of the IEM plans.

Projected global environmental benefits include: (i) a reduction and possible reversal of current trends in land degradation through supporting sustainable land management (SLM) policies and practices that generate global environmental benefits; and (ii) the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of the ecosystem goods and services that biodiversity provides to society.

Likely national environmental benefits include: (i) increased capacity in rural institutions; (ii) improved management of the natural resource base on which agriculture depends at the village level; (iii) provision of an enabling policy environment that will facilitate the development and future adoption of an IEM approach through policy change; (iv) improvements in life quality and human welfare; (v) field interventions that will lead to at least a partial rehabilitation of the natural resource base and in turn improvements in life quality and human welfare; (vi) reduction in natural resource use conflicts affecting livelihoods (e.g., reduction in downstream sedimentation that adversely affect coral reefs used for fishing); (v) increased inter-village collaboration/cooperation needed to address issues of common concern; (vi) increased local, sub-national and national awareness on status of the country's ecosystems and the role IEM planning and management plays in addressing selected critical environmental issues; (vii) strengthen education of the next generation on the importance and socio-economic significance of the country's ecosystems; (viii) improved programme management skills to support an ecosystem-based approach; (ix) an M & E system broadened to include bio-physical

[1] At present there is only an estimated 30 % of the original forest area left and what remains can only be found at higher elevations (above 400 meters).

parameters; and (x) an information dissemination system that increases awareness in the Comoros of the benefits on an ecosystem based approach to environmental issues of national concern.

B. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES/PLANS:

The Government of the Comoros (GOC) recognizes the threats to the country's natural resource base and direct linkages to the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the Comoros.

In 1993 the Council of Ministers adopted a National Environment Policy (PNE) and Environmental Action Plan (PAE). The main goal of the PNE is the integration of the environment dimension in the policy and the socio-economic development of the country. The primary objective of the PNE is the "rational management of the natural and cultural patrimony for the well-being of the Comorian people and their future generations." It is defined along 3 axes: (i) rational management, (ii) safeguarding and protection, and (iii) conservation and or restoration of natural resources. Key relevant priority activities include: (i) safeguarding and protecting biological diversity in the zones of greater interest both ecologically and culturally, with specific priority given to the safeguarding of the terrestrial and marine biodiversity); (ii) realization in the short term, effective protection in the zones of highest ecological interest, (iii) identification of new sites to preserve and/or manage; (iv) promoting an agriculture that is both economically and ecologically viable with specific objectives of promoting the integration of environmental aspects into national agricultural policy; (v) putting in place appropriate management of the country's marine and coastal space. Under Program 5 (conservation and valorisation of the national patrimony), specific priorities relevant to the present GEF MPS include: (i) the National Park of Mohéli, (ii) Karthala and other reserves, and (iii) research in seeking out alternative solutions leading to a reduction of pressure on the country natural resources (e.g., fuel wood).

Policy on environment is based in the framework law on the environment adopted in 1994. In the same year, the Government, with assistance from the UNDP, adopted a Declaration on Sustainable Development.

By signing the Convention on Biodiversity in Rio in 1992 and ratifying it in 1994, Comoros agreed to safeguard the environment and the associated natural ecosystems and their species and habitats. With the support of UNDP, the country developed a National Strategy on Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan in 2000.

There exist a number of key themes identified in the Strategy. One theme was the integration of the biodiversity and sustainable management dimensions into the country's policy and sector strategies. Key issues included: (i) urbanism and pollution and the effect on the coastal near shore marine environment; and (ii) erosion and impoverishment of soils in part due to absence of relevant decrees with the environmental framework law. The proposed objective and measures include: (i) revision of the existing policies in the domain of agriculture, forestry, tourism and urbanization (ii) examining how to mainstream biodiversity into said policies; and (iii) mainstreaming biodiversity into other sector policies for water, energy, and fisheries (where policies don't presently exist).

Comoros' National Biodiversity Action Plan also identified priority ecosystems and natural habitats to protect.[2] These included: highland forests (Karthala and Forêt de la Grille), savannas, grasslands, crater lakes (e.g., le Lac-Dziani-Boundouni), lacustrine ecosystems, beach systems, mangroves, rocky coasts, islets and coral banks and reefs and sea grasses.

To address issues primarily associated with land degradation, the Comoros launched the National Action Plan (PAN) in 2004. The PAN is based on five axes. These are: (i) the fight against soil degradation (management of watersheds), (ii) reforestation, (iii) land tenure security, (iv) protection of water sources, and (v) seeking alternatives to the use of wood for energy.

[2] These were determined by meeting one or more of the following criteria: (i) rich biodiversity supporting a number of endemic and/or threatened species, (ii) support for migratory species, (iii) areas characterized by special soils, geology, scientific and/or cultural importance, (iv) unique representativeness or associations with a process of evolution or other biologically essential processes.

Comoros's recently completed (2006) National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) highlighted the need to integrate adaptation to climate change efforts into the process of national planning. Specific priorities identified in the NAPA are the need for: (i) public information and education on climate risks; (ii) capacity-building (media, civil society associations for education on climate change; (iii) identification and strengthening of stakeholders to promote the integration of the climate dimension in the development policies and research institutes; (iv) updating of the cadastre and reforms of the judicial framework; (v) establishing a database on climate parameters; and (vi) support to the social and economic database, particularly the generation of social and economic digital maps of the Commissariat General for Planning. The NAPA also recognized the need for combining the adaptation agenda with a communication strategy based on available data on current and the future climate variability. This strategy would address the climate issue from an explicit perspective on how climate change will affect the poor in terms of health and livelihoods and the way it increases their vulnerability.

C. DESCRIBE THE CONSISTENCY OF THE PROJECT WITH GEF STRATEGIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS:

The proposed project fits fully with the GEF-4 Strategy for the Land Degradation Focal Area (FA). First, it will support a landscape approach that fully integrates ecosystem principles as supported by the UNCBD. More specifically, it is fully compatible with the LD FA Objective through promoting the development and implementation of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) policies and practices that generate both global environmental benefits and support local and national development. Of particular note is the MSP's utilization of cross-cutting opportunities for achieving impacts with an integrated ecosystem and landscape perspective. Key FA principles which will be adopted in project design include: (i) strengthening the enabling environment, (ii) supporting institutional capacity development and (iii) promoting an integrated and program framework-based approach at the landscape level. Particularly relevant principles identified under GEF-4 include: (i) placing emphasis on the management of the interface between different land use systems, (ii) allocating resources in a balanced and sensitive manner (within country) to areas affected by LD. Strategic Objective 1 (SO # 1), (….creation of an enabling environment that will place SLM in the mainstream of development policy and planning….) will be supported through the activities supported under the Project's Environmental Policy sub-component. The GEF LD FA SO #2 (…..generate mutual benefits for the global environment and local livelihoods through the upscaling of SLM investements…) will be fully supported by activities supported under the Project's Environmental Planning, Plan Implementation, and Instiutional Capacity sub-components. Finally, one key issue which will be addressed responds to relevant results from recent STAP assisted studies on land degradation; namely a need for an increased contribution in GEF's LD portofolio on sustainable forest management with a focus on tropical ecosystems and the issue of deforestation and forest degradation.

In addition to the aforementioned OPs, the proposed project will be supportive of the objectives stated under OP # 2 and #3 (coastal, marine and freshwater and forest ecosystems, respectively) of GEF's Biodiversity FA through providing targetted support to the protected areas designated to conserve ecosystems of significant importance. Under this FA, the project indirectly targets BD strategic objective (SO # 1) in catalyzing the sustainablity of PA systems at the national level through building on earlier efforts including supporting the needed institutional capacity as well as creation and diversification of the existing system. The main target of the project is SO #2, mainstreaming biodiversity in production land/seascapes and sectors designed will be relevant as IEM principles will be mainsteamed into IFAD's development assistance lending program in Comoros.

Finally, the proposed Project would be compatible with well recognized principles in support of integrated ecosystem management (IEM) as it will promote cross-sectoral approaches to address ecological issues beyond a single habitat type. In this way, it will contribute to creating an enabling environment to support future "mainstreaming" of IEM principles in LD management systems through institutional strengthening and investments.

D. OUTLINE THE COORDINATION WITH OTHER RELATED INITIATIVES:

The MSP's overall objectives and approach are fully in line with GEF's Strategic Investment Programme for Sustainable Land Management in Sub-saharan Africa (SIP). Specifically, the Project directly supports SIP's long-term goal (….improved natural resources-based livelihoods by preventing and reversing land degradation…) and global environmental objective (…to prevent and reduce the impact of land degradation on ecosystem services in country-defined priority SSA ecosystems….). It will furthermore support 3 of SIP's 4 main operational clusters. These are: (i)

supporting on-the-ground activities for scaling up SLM (# 1); (ii) creating a conducive enabling environment for SLM (# 2); and (iii) developing effective SLM knowledge management, M&E, and information dissemination systems (#4). With respect to the latter, the Comoros provides an excellent opportunity to generate on-the-ground learning experiences suitable for application to other small island developing states (SIDS) in both the region and beyond. Finally, the MSP directly supports SIP's Targeted Investments' modality which is designed to assist a country to pursue a progressively more programmatic approach to SLM over time; in this case starting with specific geographic, sectoral, and thematic entry points. Finally, the MSP M&E data collection and provision activities will be harmonized with the SIP's Program M&E Desk once the latter becomes established and M&E procedures are developed and put into practice. The MSP has been included in the SIP's 2007-2010 portfolio of operations. Key TerrAfrica partners such as UNDP and the WB are investing in the country and will be brought into the process through information and knowledge sharing mechanisms.

IFAD has worked closely with UNDP during the preparation of the National Sustainable Development Program beginning in 2002. Moreover with respect to the MSP, during project preparation, specific consultations also took place at the UNDP national office in Moroni in visits in October -November 2006. The project puts emphasis on learning and knowledge sharing with ongoing and planned similar projects. A matrix will be developed and updated during project implementation to monitor potential for reciprocal exchanges with and learning from other projects GEF projects (i.e in Comoros and Seychelles). Specific linkages with and lessons learned from relevant non-GEF projects will be also considered throughout project implementation, notably ion terms of sustainability. Lessons from other projects (BD GEF projects in Comoros and elsewhere) will be considered for project design and implementation: i.e. Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Development in the Federal Islamic Republic of Comoros, Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management project (SID/LDC) mainly through its KM platform. The proposed MSP offers also potential for linkages with projects in Seychelles. These include: (i) Mainstreaming Biodiversity Management into Production Sector Activities and (ii) Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management Project in Seychelles. Potential for reciprocal linkages and learning with the latter would be mainly linked to its outcome 2 on *SLM mainstreaming into economic and sectoral development*. This entails processes on relevant policies that integrate specific sections on and follow principles of SLM; harmonization of acts & regulations pertaining to SLM.

Finally, the Project is relevant to NEPAD's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) Pillar 1 (land and water management) particularly through its promotion of integrated ecosystem approach to coastal management.

E. DESCRIBE THE INCREMENTAL REASONING OF THE PROJECT:

The proposed MSP is a fully blended operation with the IFAD's newly approved grant, the National Sustainable Human Development Programme (NSHDP). The main scope of the baseline relates to local development and income generation in a rural economy that mainly relies on agriculture and natural resources for livelihoods. The project covers an area that hosts significant biodiversity and ecosystems of global importance and strongly justifies an added value of GEF involvement. Blending the MSP with the NSHDP will offer a coherent approach to development and conservation. It will also reduce transactions costs and lead to a consolidated interventions and impacts.

Baseline Scenario

The focus of IFAD's fifth and newly approved loan, the National Sustainable Human Development Programme (NSHDP) is to address land degradation and loss of biodiversity in the marine and forest ecosystems. The development objective of the Programme is to put in place a community-based management system and promote the sustainable development of natural capital to ensue that participating communities will benefit through an increase in agricultural productivity which in turn will permit an increase in revenue, food security and household conditions. The Programme's short term objective is to promote growth in poor, rural household revenues and the mitigation of their physical environment and conditions of life. This would be achieved through meeting the following intermediate objectives: (i) reinforcement of community and professional rural based organizations; (ii) intensification of agricultural production (feeding material, milk production), rational natural resources management (soils, forest, fish), and increased value chains associated with agricultural production; (iii) promotion of the participation of disadvantaged groups in production activities; and (iv) increasing the role of and contributions from the diaspora in support of local economic

development projects.

Baseline Costs. The main activities supported under the baseline scenario are infrastructure rehabilitation (agricultural centers), contracts to Intermediary Organizations (IOs) to support the community-led implementation of many of the field activities, investments in support of intensification of agricultural and animal production, assistance to support small-scale enterprise activities, and public discussions, studies, and possible assistance to support a pilot land titling activity (see Attachment 2a). The estimated costs of baseline activities amount to US $ 4.4 M (see Matrix 1). Funding sources contributing to the baseline are the IFAD loan, government contributions, local participants and the Diaspora. Government contribution to the baseline is an estimated 5 % and is used primarily to cover central and field staff salaries. The remaining estimated 95 % of the baseline costs are financed by IFAD and the beneficiaries/disapora.

Baseline Benefits. Activities under the Baseline Scenario will produce predominantly national benefits in the form of intensifying agricultural and livestock production complemented with support for increasing and diversifying small-scale rural enterprises. Together, these investments should contribute significantly to increasing rural household income and economic well-being. It is hoped, that through such an approach, the baseline would contribute to achieving some global benefits through a reduction of pressure on the ecosystem and loss of biodiversity. These benefits would likely be derived from the baseline's activities supporting any shift away from extensive land use in project sites, a pattern characterized by non-sustainable production practices and/or their utilization in fragile lands not suitable for this type of production system.

In the absence of additional GEF funding, the implementation of the aforementioned baseline set of activities is unlikely to contribute in any significant way to achieving global environmental benefits.

GEF Alternative

The GEF Alternative will support the long-term restoration of up to 6 pilot coastal ecosystems through the development and implementation of integrated ecosystem management plans. Supporting the aforementioned, predominately field activities, will be a number of institutional interventions designed to create an enabling environment to ensure the long-term sustainability of the pilot sites and increase the chances for their future replication. Financing the incremental costs associated with the Alternative would build on the Baseline Scenario by: (i) supporting the strengthening of existing (and development of new) village-based land management plans; (ii) building on these land management plans by supporting collaborative approaches among villages sharing common bounded areas to develop Integrated Ecosystem Management plans designed to identify and prioritize critical interventions that would lead to the eventual restoration of the degraded landscape, underlying natural processes, and the environmental "goods and services" they provide; (iii) support for the implementation of village and ecosystem level plans; (iv) increasing capacity among village associations, intermediary operators, NGOs, producer associations, local and sub-national government technicians to develop and implement an IEM approach to land degradation (to include the identification and inclusion where appropriate, relevant technologies such as soil and water conservation, *d'embocagement*, and other principles characteristic of SLM); (v) support for the establishment of new policy frameworks to foster replication of the approach supported under the Alternative and ensure future sustainability; (vi) creating of new and/or strengthening of existing PAs in support of Comoros National PA System; (vii) increasing public awareness of the significance of the country's ecosystems and the role they play in contributing to life quality and human well-being; and (viii) fostering the promotion and dissemination of project initiatives, results and impacts through printed and electronic media, as well as national and regional workshops and seminars.

Costs. The total cost of the GEF Alternative is estimated to be US $ 7.3 million (M) *(GEF financing: US $ 1.0 M)*, detailed as follows: (i) US $ 507 thousand (K) *(GEF financing: US $ 241 K)* to support the Environmental Policy and Planning component; (ii) US $ 4.5 M *(GEF financing: US $ 456 K)* to support IEM Plan Implementation; (iii) US $ 896 K *(GEF financing: US $ 145K)* to support Increased Institutional Capacity, Environmental Education and Public Awareness and (iv) US $ 1.4 M *(GEF financing: US $ 158 K)* in support of Project Management, M&E, and Information Dissemination (see Attachment 2b).

Benefits. Under the GEF Alternative, the Union of the Comoros would be able to undertake a challenging program encompassing both national and global benefits. It would not only serve to increase the livelihoods and well-being of those families and groups in rural communities most at risk but lead to improved ecological "health" and the

restoration of the underlying processes and environmental "goods and services" that would benefit the broader rural population. Benefits generated from this comprehensive approach would include both national benefits (e.g., improved management of the natural resource base and reductions in natural resource use conflicts affecting rural livelihoods) as well as global benefits. Global benefits include: (i) reduction in and restoration of degraded landscapes, underlying natural processes and the global "environmental "goods and services" they provide and (ii) conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of global importance (see complete list of national benefits in the Incremental Cost Matrix below).

F. INDICATE RISKS, INCLUDING CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS, THAT MIGHT PREVENT THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE(S) FROM BEING ACHIEVED AND OUTLINE RISK MANAGEMENT MEASURES:

Key risks will be:

Institutional capacity. The greatest risk is the weak institutional environment that characterizes much of the country's institutions at both the national and sub-national levels. This would likely affect the efficacy of project implementation, etc. The proposed MSP would address this through: (i) providing signfiicant support through capacity building to both public institutions and NGOs, (ii) working through intermediary service providers and (iii) channeling most of the resources through community-led actvities.

Land tenure. A second potential risk is associated with the degree of uncertainty surrounding existing land tenure which might pose a constraint in the development and implementation of IEM plans. The situation is exacerbated by the highly complex social structure characteristic of Comoros. There appear to be a number of barriers that constrain communities from working together through a collaborative approach to address issues of common concern. Appropriate institutional means will have to be identified and supported to gain the confidence and trust of communities.

Co-management. Specfically with respect to support to protected areas, a past evaluation of the GEF-supported Moheli Marine Park indicated that notwithstanding a number of positive achievements associated with the application of co-management principles it was not a universal pancea. Major constraints that affected the achievement of overall project obectives were lack of government enforcement and the nature and severity of root causes underlying the threats to the PA including overpopulation and poverty. These risks are likely to be relevant to activities designed to support PAs under the MSP. Proposed migitation measures include: (i) supporting alternative income-generating activities, (ii) use of ecoguards and training of local community representatived in PA monitoring and patrolling, and (iii) community-empowerment through co-management approaches.

Climate Change. Exacerbating the aforementioned impacts on the country's natural resources base are the insidious effects of climate change, which over time are expected to have a negative impact on the country's already vulnerable agriculture and natural resources. Specific threats that were identified in the country's first communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) include: (i) reductions in agricultural and fishing production; (ii) increased saline intrusion in coastal aquifers; (iii) disappearance of reefs and beaches, and increase risk of malaria and other vector-transmitted diseases.

External risks. Finally, risks beyond the control of the project but that nevertheless could affect project outcomes include political instability, climatic variability and natural hazards.

G. EXPLAIN HOW COST-EFFECTIVENESS IS REFLECTED IN THE PROJECT DESIGN:

Due to the "blending" of the MSP into the NSHDP the former will be very cost-effective. Benefits will accrue from: (i) a single management structure, (ii) common procurement procedures and operations, (iii) an integrated M & E programme, and (iv) complementary project interventions with little risk of duplication or overlap due to sharing a common IEM plan at each project site.

There exist a number of potential synergies associated with the "blending" of the Programme and MSP. The main complementarities and resulting synergies between the two can be broken down into the following categories:

- policy. The GEF MSP supports activities designed to promote more informed decision-making with respect to incorporating the environmental dimension in rural development through support for public fora, cross-site visits and studies. The IFAD Programme does not have an explicit policy activity;

- scale of planning and implementation. The focus on the IFAD Programme is at the village level. The GEF MSP complements this by focusing on the larger ecosystem within which one or more IFAD supported villages exist;

- types of activities supported. The focus of the IFAD Programme is primarily on the promoting more sustainable production systems in the primary natural resource sectors (agriculture, livestock, and fisheries). The GEF MSP complements this in supporting other activities within the ecosystem affecting ecosystem processes and functions as well as human well-being that are outside the scope of the Programme (e.g., solid waste disposal);

- protected areas. IFAD activities in support of protected area strengthening (or establishment) are primarily focused on non-sustainable livelihoods in lands adjacent to the PA (e.g., illegal grazing of livestock). The GEF MSP will also support activities inside the PA (e.g., management plan preparation, zoning, minimal infrastructure investment and equipment); and

- supporting activities. Finally, there exist a number of supporting activities (e.g., studies, training, information dissemination, etc.) in which the GEF MSP complements the IFAD Programme primarily by broadening the concerned activity to more explicitly include biodiversity conservation, integrated ecosystem management and in some cases additional information on sustainable land management, though much of the latter will be addressed by Programme itself.

PART III: INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND SUPPORT

A. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT:

The GEF supported MSP will be fully "blended" into the IFAD Programme including the latter's institutional implementation arrangements. Under the Programme, a Programme Coordination Unit (PCU) headed by a national coordinator will be established in Moroni (Grande Comore) under the Minister of Agriculture Fisheries and Environment and will be responsible for general program management. The PCU will be supported by a small administrative, financial management and M&E cell. The PCU's main responsibilities will be (i) financial management, (ii) ensure the completion and integration of the annual work programme and budget (PTBA) of the three islands, (iii) organize the technical support and management response to the project demands originating from the three islands and (iv) assume the responsibility for mobilizing international technical assistance.

A national steering committee (CNP) will be put in place composed of representatives from each island, civil society and the Diaspora, presided over by the head minister of the Union. Among other characteristics, representatives will be selected for their knowledge on the development and management of natural resources and the environment. The CNP will meet at least once per year to discuss and approve the Annual Work Plan and Budget (PTBA)

At the level of the region (island), a regional Committee for Programme Coordination (CRCP) will be created for each island. The CRCP will be composed of 9 persons selected for their competence in development and environment issues. They will meet at least once per year to discuss and approve the regional annual work plan and budget (PTBA).

Many of the field activities will be contracted to the private sector such as NGOs (local or international) and national institutions that have the competence and capacity to complete certain tasks (e.g., INRAPE, environmental NGOs such as Action Comores, Comoflora, AIDE, etc.) through contracts and inter-institutional agreements.

The Programme will recruit three Intermediate Principal Operators (OIPs) responsible for organizing and facilitating participation and planning elements of the Programme. They will put in place local teams that will work directly with the villages to include leaders, evaluation supervisors and a coordinator for each zone They will be working principally with awareness raising and the preparation of the Annual Work Plans (PAT) in 55 target villages, creation of *comites de gestion des terroir*, formation and structuring the process leading to the elaboration of the PAT. It is envisioned that a

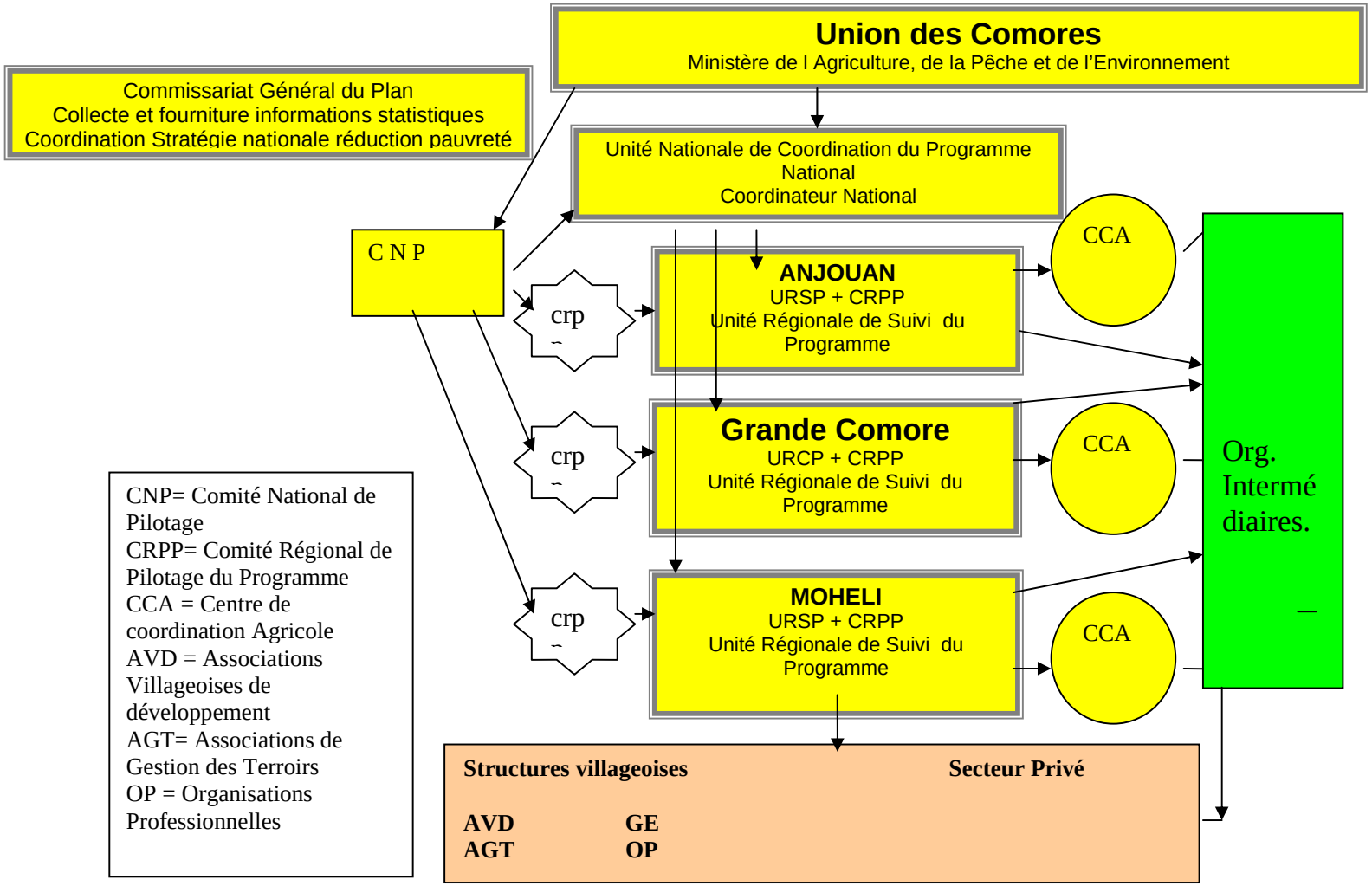
social-organizer will work directly with local communities in the formulation of the Village Development Plans (PDV) and Local Development Plans (PDL) and facilitate the integration of aspects of the *gestion des terroir*.

In addition, there will be a number of technically specialized operators that will be recruited through a competitive process tasked with specialized studies, research, technical support, providing assistance in the development of the PAT, etc. They could be study bureaus, private sector institutions, NGOs and/or individuals.

The Programme will be driven by an Annual Program of Work and Budget (PTBA). Each island will prepare one under the responsibility of the monitoring and evaluation unit in consultation with the relevant village communities (through annual planning workshops) and reviewed by the CRCP before being consolidated into a global PTBA by the UCP.

Overall coordination of the project will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment of the Union Government. Oversight of the execution of project activities will be the responsibility of the three islands respective ministries of production. Actual execution of the activities will be through service providers (through competitively let contracts administered by the Ministry of Agriculture). In the specific case of GEF supported activities, there are one or more environmental NGOs in Comoros that appear to be best placed to work with communities in the development and implementation of environmental mapping and planning

Organizational chart of the NSHDP – The GEF MSP will be an integral part of the program



PART IV: EXPLAIN THE ALIGNMENT OF PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF:

The project design is aligned with the original PIF in terms of design and budgeting

PART V: AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for CEO Endorsement.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Kevin Cleaver
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<tr><td colspan="2">Please do not forget to copy the IFAD/GEF Registry on official communications, gefregistry@ifad.org</td></tr>
</table>

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Narrative Summary	Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumption/Risks
GOAL			
Non-sustainable land use practices and concurrent loss of biodiversity fully addressed through the development and adoption of an ecosystem based approach in the country's rural land use planning and development activities.	• policy, regulatory and planning frameworks support an ecosystem based approach that adopts and promotes sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation principles and objectives • biodiversity conservation considerations fully integrated into agricultural sector activities • increase in creation of new and strengthening of existing protected areas (including marine and freshwater ecosystems) in the national protected area system • national, regional, and local institutions have the capacity to support an ecosystem based approach that incorporates SLM principles	• laws, regulations, policy documents that reflect adoption of an ecosystem based approach in development planning • reductions reflected through international consultancies to support national initiatives • national agricultural development strategy and other relevant policy documents reflect the need to account for biodiversity conversation objectives • legal declaration of Pas	
OBJECTIVES	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumption/Risks**
Project Development Objective To support community-led ecological planning and the subsequent identification and implementation of field and related enabling activities designed to address priority natural resource use conflicts affecting ecosystem "health" and the provision of environmental "goods and services" contributing to losses in economic productivity and human well-being.	• increase economic productivity and human well being measured by increases in income trends in targeted areas by EOP	• socio-economic baseline and monitoring programme established in pilot participating communities	• public decision makers adopt policy recommendations
Global Environmental Objectives *(i) to reduce and possibly reverse current trends in land degradation through supporting SLM policies and practices that generate global environmental benefits; and (ii) the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of the ecosystem goods and services the biodiversity provides to society.*	• 10 % increase in value of selected environmental "goods and services" by EOP over baseline values attributable to project interventions	• appropriate bio-physical based monitoring programme developed and integrated into M&E programme	
OUTCOMES (Component Purposes)	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumption/Risks**
1. **Environmental Policy and Planning** Outcome 1.1. Improved policy and planning frameworks to support SLM through an IEM approach designed to	• 1 new policy in agricultural sector that explicitly incorporate SLM principles by EOP	• policy documents • national reports and legal	• national and sub-national governments committed to promoting an ecosystem based approach in rural planning frameworks

restore/protect biodiversity in production landscapes.	• 3 non-project supported spatial planning frameworks in rural space (e.g., PDVs) incorporate ecosystem based approach in the planning process by EOP	surveys	• weak institutional structure not adequate to support scaling up of project outputs and lessons learned • trained IOs remain available to support up scaling. • international donor community not interested in supporting scaling up efforts
2. **IEM Plan Implementation** Outcome 2.1. A proven approach that fully integrates ecosystem principles into a diverse range of production landscapes. Outcome 2.2. Increase sustainability of Comoros' national protected area system through the strengthening of existing protected areas and/or reducing pressure on candidate sites currently being considered for future designated protective area status.	• 50 % of terrestrial project area benefited by investments leading to reduced levels of land degradation by EOP • 50 % of marine project supported area brought under sustainable management practices by EOP • 3 under (or non-) protected areas strengthened (created) by the project by EOP	• annual reports • PA policy study	
3. **Increased Institutional Capacity.** Environmental Education, and Public Awareness Outcome 3.1. Improved capacity at the local and sub-national (island) levels to incorporate an ecosystem based approach into SLM programmes. Outcome 3.2. Increased public awareness and support for the protection and restoration of the country's ecosystems.	• 3 regional development ministries incorporate ecosystem principles and concepts in at least one activity (per region) that addresses land resource issues by EOP • 6 non-project supported activities documented in support of IEM approach (e.g., NGO campaigns, non-participating village activities) by EOP	• land management projects incorporate ecosystem approach • indicators developed and included in regional and village programme monitoring	
4. **Project Management, M& E, and Information Dissemination** Outcome 4.1. An effectively managed project that achieves its stated objectives and serves as a useful model to support replication both in Comoros and elsewhere. Outcome 4.3. (i) increased awareness of the IEM approaches, results, and "lessons learned" derived from the Comoros' experience; and (ii) adoption of relevant experiences from this project by other	• programme activities executed in a timely and cost-effective manner • 3000 "hits" on web page by EOP • 60 visits by donor representatives and other interested international stakeholders to one or more project sites by EOP • 1 new IEM initiative replicating Comoros approach in region by EOP		

SIDS in both the region and beyond.			
Component 1. Environmental Policy and Planning			
Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**	**Assumption/Risks**
1.1. Policy Output 1.1. To create an enabling environment to support the development and adoption of an ecosystem approach in spatial planning processes in rural landscapes.	• 9 public fora supported for policy makers by EOP • 5 policy studies supported by EOP	• minutes of the meetings • study reports • participation in international workshops/seminars	• policy makers interested in participating in public fora and consider policy options • village associations sharing a bounded ecosystems are willing to work together to address issues of common interest • government provides agreed on counterpart funding • villagers provide needed counterpart (in-kind) financing • uncertain land tenure situation may impede reaching agreement on critical IEM sub-projects • PAs are not financially self-sustainable within Life of Project (LOP)
1.2. Planning Output 1.2. To develop community-led ecosystem management plans in coastal ecosystems.	• 6 IEM plans prepared by EOP	• IEM plans	
Component 2: IEM Plan Implementation			
Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**	
2.1 IEM sub-projects Output 2.1. Implementation of community –based projects identified and prioritized through the aforementioned IEM plans that will lead to the partial restoration of the ecosystem and the provision of environmental "goods and services".	• 18 sub-projects implemented in support of IEM plan implementation by EOP • 1660 ha of degraded land put under sustainable management	• approved sub-project proposals • project management reports • project M &E reports	
2.2 Protected Areas Output 2.2 Strengthening of existing and creation of new protected areas leading to increases in the protection and conservation of biodiversity.	• 3 protected areas strengthened/created in proximity to IFAD project areas by EOP	• PA management plans and budgets • Project management reports • Project M &E reports	
Component 3: Capacity Building, Environmental Education, and Public Awareness			
Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**	
3.1. Capacity Building Output 3.1. National, sub-national (insular) and local stakeholder capacity strengthened to support future adoption and implementation of an ecological approach in rural spatial planning.	• 18 workshops by EOP • 18 short courses by EOP • 27 cross site visits by EOP • 3 training courses by EOP	• project management reports • project M &E reports	

3.2. Environmental Education and Public Awareness Output 3.2. Increase levels of education and awareness among local communities, decision-makers, and the public at large of the significance of the country's critical ecosystems and their role in providing "goods and services," existing status and threats, and opportunities that exist to address the situation through incorporating SLM and biodiversity conservation principles and objectives into an ecosystem approach.	• 4 public school curricula developed by EOP • 9 (in aggregate) annual EA campaigns implemented in 3 regions (3 per region) between PY 2 – PY4	• project management reports • project M &E reports
Component 4: Project Management, M&E and Information Dissemination		
Outputs (Sub-Component Purposes)	**Verifiable Indicators**	**Means of Verification**
4.1 Project Management Output 4.1 National coordination unit strengthened to manage and coordinate GEF-supported activities	• GEF activities partially integrated into Programme's PTBA and M&E system 6 months after Project approval and fully integrated into both in subsequent years • GEF reporting requirements complied with in a timely and satisfactory matter	• project management reports • project M &E reports • GEF specific reporting products
4.2. Monitoring and Evaluation Output 4.2 Three sub-national M&E units strengthened to supervise GEF supported activities.	• GEF required monitoring requirements integrated into IFAD M&E system 6 months after Project approval • GEF reporting requirements complied within a timely and satisfactory matter	• review of M&E system parameters and data collection methodology • Project monitoring and evaluation reports
4.3 Information Dissemination Output 4.3 An information dissemination strategy developed and implemented.	• information strategy prepared by end of PY 1 • media and their information outputs (e.g., webpage, brochures, newsletter) by EOP	• strategy • media outputs

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)

Not applicable

ANNEX C: CONSULTANTS TO BE HIRED FOR THE PROJECT

Position Titles	*$/ person week*	*Estimated person weeks*	*Tasks to be performed*
For Project Management	190	82	1. Ensure overall daily management of the project; 2. Prepare technical and progress reports 3. Prepare workplans and budgets 4. Coordinate the preparation of the GEF PTBAs and ensure that they are well aligned with the NSHDP 5. Supervise and co-ordinate project activities, in line with project outputs and outcomes, and in close collaboration with all stakeholders. 6. Ensure the technical and financial coordination of the project activities between the three islands 7. Supervise and coordinate the work of project consultants and sub-contractors; 8. Oversee the exchange and sharing of experiences and lessons learned with relevant conservation and development projects nationally and internationally. 9. Undertaking any other GEF-related activities that may be assigned by the NSHDP 10. Monitor the follow up of evaluation recommendations 11. Facilitate, act as resource person, and join if required any external missions. 12. The M&E Specialist will ensure all the M&E functions
Local	278	72	Support in the local planning exercise Training on innovative aspects Preparation and validation of PTBAs
International	1493	12	Support to the M&E and the KM functions

For Technical Assistance			
Local	202.8	250	Policy studies and recommendations Support to the design, implementation and monitoring of the local plans Training and capacity building as required Animate workshops and policy forums
International	881	95	Targeted expertise on specific aspects such as M&E, information dissemination and support to the local IEM (with particular expertise on biodiversity) Selected and targeted capacity building activities (on demand)

ANNEX D: STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT PREPARATION ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF FUNDS

A. EXPLAIN IF THE PPG OBJECTIVE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE PPG ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN.

No PPG was provided for this project

B. DESCRIBE IF ANY FINDINGS THAT MIGHT AFFECT THE PROJECT DESIGN OR ANY CONCERNS ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION.

None at this time.

C. PROVIDE DETAILED FUNDING AMOUNT OF THE PPG ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPLEMTATION STATUS IN THE TABLE BELOW:

NA – Project preparation was entirely financed by IFAD