UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
NAIROBI CONVENTION

WIOSAP FULL PROPOSALS TEMPLATE

Call title: Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities (WIO-SAP)

Participating countries: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania [and France (not project beneficiary)]

Executing organization: Nairobi Convention Secretariat

Duration of demo projects: 2 years

Stage of the call: Full proposals

INSTRUCTIONS

Organisation Name	General Directorate of Environment and Forest (DGEF)
Project Title	Sustainable management of shallow marine habitats in the Comoros through improved management planning and rehabilitation of degraded sites.
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Registration Details	Type of organisation: Governmental Institution Country: Comoros Year: N/A Registration Number: N/A

Executive Summary:

The Comoros archipelago has high level of biodiversity and endemism. However, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources is putting the unique environment of these islands under immense stress. One of the strategies that have been chosen to protect habitats and conserve biodiversity is through the designation of protected areas. The Comoros currently have one marine protected area and there are plans to designate an additional three largely marine sites before the end of 2021. For these sites to play their intended role in biodiversity conservation they will need to be well managed by implementation of conservation management measures defined in well-articulated conservation management plans. Degraded habitats will also have to be rehabilitated so that they can regain their full ecological functionality. The aim of this project is to strengthen the management of critical shallow marine habitats in the Comoros. To achieve this three main approaches will be adopted which involves i) the preparation of conservation management plans for four (one existing and three future) MPA sites, ii) the rehabilitation of degraded mangrove and seagrass habitats in one MPA site and, ii) the engagement of the local communities in environmental conservation. The project will contribute to the delivery of WIOSAP Outcome A.1 "*Appropriate tools and methodologies are used to manage critical coastal and marine habitats in order to enhance their resilience and long-term sustainability*" and three of its four outputs as well as to the implementation of the Comoros National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation (2001). It will be implemented through partnership between government institutions, NGOs and local communities.

I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The Comoro archipelago is located in the Mozambique Channel north-west of Madagascar and East of Mozambique. The archipelago consist of four main islands: Grand Comoro (1,148 km^2), Moheli (290 km^2), Anjouan (424 km^2), which are under Comorian administration, and the island of Mayotte (370 km^2), which is under French administration. These volcanic islands are isolated from each other by 400 to 3000 m deep oceanic trenches. The islands are of different ages and were formed during different geological periods, which conferred distinct biophysical characteristics to each of them. The fact that these islands were never connected to each other, nor to Africa or Madagascar implies that they have very high level of biodiversity and endemism. These unique biodiversity is however threatened by high population pressure and intense exploitation of natural resources, which in many cases are believed to be nearing the limits of their carrying capacity. The socio-economic landscape of the archipelago is characterized by high population density (>395 inhabitants/km^2), high population growth rate (2.1% per annum), high level of youth unemployment, 44.8% of the population living below the poverty line, a narrow economic base, which is dependent on three cash crops (vanilla, cloves, and ylang-ylang). High level of poverty forces the inhabitants of the Comoros to turn towards the exploitation of natural resources such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs, coastal forests for income. Mangrove forests are cut for firewood and seagrass habitats are threatened by excessive sedimentation from terrestrial sources. A total of 120 ha of mangroves are documented from Comoros, with most of it located along the southern shore of Moheli and around the Bimbini peninsula with smaller areas found around the islands of Grande Comore and Anjouan. Most of the seagrass habitats of the Comoros are found in the Mohéli Marine Park, which harbours almost 90 per cent of the sea grasses in the country.

The number of tourists coming to the Comoros is low (~ 3,000 per year) and there is scope to significantly increase this number by improving infrastructure as well as connectivity and visibility of the Comoros to the outside world. The unique biodiversity remains one of the main attractions of tourists to the Comoros. Realizing the need to preserve the unique marine ecosystems of the archipelago, the Comoros designated its first Protected Area (Mohéli National Park) with a total area of 404 km^2 in 2001. With the support of UNDP and GEF, the Government of Comoros has embarked on a large-scale project to establish a national network of terrestrial and marine protected areas. The protected area network is meant to be co-managed with local communities and should protect representative portions of different types of ecosystems. Implementation of the project began in 2015 with specific objective of creating an additional five protected areas by 2021. Three of the proposed sites (Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and Shisiwani National Park) will be protecting largely marine ecosystems. To support the implementation of this new system, the government has recently adopted a new law on protected areas, including regulations for the management of the extended system of protected areas, institutional arrangements for the management of terrestrial protected areas through a new protected areas agency known as Comoros National Parks. An environment trust fund has also been created to support the management of the national system of protected areas. The process to prepare conservation management plans to replace the outdated one for the Moheli NP and for the new three NPs that will soon be created is an urgent need. These plans will help in the implementation of conservation management strategies to protect threatened species and habitats at these sites by controlling destructive activities that are currently affecting these sites. The work to draft the conservation management plans is at an advance stage and started as part of the Protected Areas Network Project. To date, these plans however remains incomplete and will be taken over by the current project. Apart from completion of the conservation management plans, this project will also work towards strengthening the resilience of impacted coastal areas at one site through mangrove and seagrass rehabilitation. The implementation of this project through a partnership involving government institutions, NGOs and local communities will foster collaboration and build capacity for such types of initiative to be up-scaled and replicated at other locations throughout the Comoros.

The project will contribute to the delivery of WIOSAP Outcome A.1 "*Appropriate tools and methodologies are used to manage critical coastal and marine habitats in order to enhance their resilience and long-term sustainability*" and three of its four outputs. The project will contribute towards the implementation of various components of the Comoros National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation (2001) namely: i) the adoption of a framework for protected area management that recognizes the importance of community participation in the development and management of PAs, ii) capacity development in biodiversity conservation and management of PAs, iii) establishing a system for the long term monitoring of biodiversity, and iv) restoring degraded ecosystems, controlling alien species, and promoting the recovery of endangered species within PAs. These are also being addressed by the on-going GEF-financed project for the development of a national network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

II. PARTNERSHIPS

The project will be delivered by General Directorate of Environment and Forest with Comoros National Parks (PNC), with input regional NGOs and local communities. All the project activities will be implemented in the protected areas of Comoros, and the management will be

consolidated at the sites level. A description and contribution of each project partner is provided below.

Partner 1: General Directorate of Environment and Forest (DGEF)
Mandate: Ensure that the natural environment of the Comoros is sustainably managed.
Role in Project: DGEF will ensure monitoring and evaluation of project and activities.
Resource Partner will provide: The DGEF will provide an office for the project as well as some equipment and services.

Partner 2: Comoros National Parks/ Protected Areas Project (RNAP)/GEF
Mandate: To manage the Comoros National Park sites.
Role in Project: Comoros National Parks will be the main project beneficiary. Their role will be to ensure that the project is fully implemented using the most effective methods and efficient use of funds.
Resource Partner will provide: The project will use the facilities of Comoros National Park, premises, sales for training and some software that Comoros National Parks have.

Partner 3: Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement aux Comores (APEC)
Mandate: Technical assistance for the implementation of the project
Role in Project: APEC will provide project technical assistance and project management at the various sites of the Comoros National Parks, while providing its expertise.
Resource partner will provide: Human Resources and Expertise

Partner 4: Local communities.
Mandate:
Role in Project: Participate in project implementation with special focus on ecosystem rehabilitation activities and sustainable management of natural resources.
Resource partner will provide: Mobilization of human resources in participations in ecosystem restoration activities.

III. OBJECTIVES

A. Overall objective

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen the management of critical shallow marine habitats in the Comoros. This will be achieved using three min approaches, which will involve:

1. The preparation of site management plans for four formally designated MPA sites,
2. The rehabilitation of degraded mangrove and seagrass habitats and,
3. The engagement of the local communities in environmental conservation.

Emphasis will be placed on the creation and strengthening of collaboration and partnerships between the General Directorate of Environment and Forest, Comoros National Parks, NGOs and community-based organisations. At the end of the project it is expected that: i) each of the four MPA sites will have **approved management plans** which have been validated by local stakeholders, ii) **1 ha of mangrove (~ 1% of total cover)** and **1 ha of seagrass** ecosystem would have been **rehabilitated** and iii) there would be **at least 300 local community members** that

would have been **directly engaged and actively participated** in the implementation of this project.

B. Immediate/specific objectives

The specific objectives of the projects are as follows:

1. ***Have the site management plans, inclusive of spatial zoning designs, for the four MPAs completed and approved by the General Directorate of Environment and Forest before the end of the project.*** These site management plans will provide long term direction for the protection, development, management and use of the ecosystem goods and services within these four Marine National Parks. Additionally, they will provide clear, practical implementation and monitoring plan for the next five years 2020-2024. These management plans will allow the park management organisations to stay focussed on their priorities with clear targets to be achieved as well as quantitative ways of measuring success. The plans are expected to be developed through (i) utilising existing research and local knowledge available for these sites, (ii) consultation with relevant stakeholders, and (iii) incorporating international best practices, such as the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on Management Planning. The project will ensure that all management plans are prepared in a standard format and are aligned with the requirements of the Comoros National protected areas network development strategy.

2. ***One ha of mangrove and 1 ha of seagrass ecosystems restored through community involvement by the end of the project.*** The General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF) will partner with the Comoros National Parks, the Protected Areas National Network Project, local and regional NGOs and community members to implement this component of the project. Restoration work will focus on mangrove and seagrass ecosystems as these are the most affected by human activities and have the greatest potential of being successful as a result of faster growth rate of mangrove and seagrass compared to hard corals, and simpler logistical requirements. Restoration work will be implemented according to the Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines and Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines produced by the WIOSAP project. All four project sites are in need of ecosystem rehabilitation, however, due to budget restrictions, ecosystem restoration will only be undertaken only within the Shisiwani National Park. At the end of the project it is expected that the restored areas would have recorded an increase of at least 30% in vegetation cover and the numerical abundance of macro-invertebrates would have increased by at least 25% by the end of the project. The success of ecosystem restoration work undertaken as part of this project should build confidence within the organisations and communities involved to expend ecosystem restoration to other sites within the Comoros in need of ecosystem rehabilitation.

3. ***To enhance capacities (capacity building/enhancement) of local communities in environmental conservation.*** As biodiversity conservation with local communities engagement is a strategic priority of the Comoros National Protected Areas Network Development Strategy, the implementation of this project will ensure that this is reflected in practice. The local communities will be involved at different levels of project implementation including the validation of the zoning plans and site management plans, on the field participation in mangrove and seagrass restoration activities as well as being targeted by the education and awareness campaign. Strong emphasis will be placed on working with the youths, around the project areas, especially around the Shisiwani National Park where restoration activities will be implemented.

4. ***Prepare and disseminate at least five different types of education and awareness materials focussed on the National Parks of the Comoros, shallow marine habitats of Comoros and on the rehabilitation of marine ecosystems by the end of the project.*** The awareness materials will be produced in French and/and or the local Kiswahili and will be distributed using multiple media platforms which could include television, radio, newspapers, flyers and social media. This will ensure that information reaches a maximum number of people possible and that people are aware of the activities being implemented and the expected benefits.

IV. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

A. Expected project results and indicators

The project will have three main outcomes.

Outcome 1: Strengthened management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros through improved management planning.

Outcome 2: Enhanced ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass area resulting from restoration activities.

Outcome 3: Improved efficiency and collaboration in environment conservation project implementation among key organisations and local communities operating in the coastal areas of Comoros.

Outcome 1 will involve the finalisation, approval and active use of site management plans for four National Parks in the Comoros. The sites include the existing Mohéli National Park, which was first declared in 2001 and expanded in 2015, and three recently designated MPAs (Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and the Shisiwani National Park) that were proclaimed as part of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) funded "Development of a national network of terrestrial and marine protected areas representative of the Comoros' unique natural heritage and co-managed with local village communities" project which is usually referred as the Protected Areas Project. The site management plans are presently in the form of drafts, having been prepared by the Warden of each site. The main indicator for this outcome will be the availability of site management plans for these four National Parks which have been validated by stakeholders and approved by government by the end of this project.

Outcome 2 will involve the rehabilitation of mangrove and seagrass areas in the Shisiwani National Park. The Shisiwani National Park has an area of approximately 3,025 ha and rich biological diversity with mangrove, seagrass and coral reef ecosystems. The mangrove and seagrass ecosystems have been degraded by human actions including cutting down of mangrove trees for constructions and firewood and increases in water turbidity and over-sedimentation linked to soil runoff resulting from deforestation and land clearance. The main indicator for this outcome will be the restoration of at least 1 ha of seagrass and 1 ha of mangrove ecosystem at the project site.

Outcome 3 will involve engagement of the local communities around the four MPA sites for which management plans are being prepared. Engagement will be through education and

awareness activities on the protection of marine ecosystems and wildlife in coastal areas of the Comoros as well as through trainings and participation in mangrove and seagrass habitat restoration. The main indicators for this outcome will be the number of community members participating in project activities, number of people trained in ecosystem restoration and the number of education and awareness materials produced and disseminated.

B. Project activities and work plan

This section describes the activities that will be implemented as part of this project, the main expected outputs and the outcomes to which they will contribute. Project activities will include a mixture of meetings, workshops, trainings, field work and awareness programme which together will contribute to the attainment of the project's general objective. Each project activity and their rationale is described below. Timing and duration of each activity is detailed in the Work Plan.

Outcome 1: Management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros is strengthened through improved management planning.

Output 1.1: Stakeholders validated and government approved conservation management plans for the Mohéli National Park, Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and the Shisiwani National Park.

A.1.1.1: Drafting of four conservation management plans and spatial zoning designs.

This activity will support the finalisation of the draft conservation management plans for the Mohéli National Park, Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and the Shisiwani National Park. The drafting of these plans was started as part of Protected Areas National Network Project and each plan is being prepared by the Warden of each park. There are already some agreements for some parks on the zoning plans and the conservation strategies to be implemented. However, the plans are not at the same level of completeness for each park. This activity will support the finalisation and validation of the four site management plans and will ensure that they are drafted in the same format. Sub-activities that will be implemented include public workshops to discuss zoning plans and conservation strategies to be implemented, final validation workshops, final drafting of the site management plans, preparation of implementation budget and performance measurement system, peer review of plans, submission and approval of plans by government. Plans will be completed by the end of the 2nd quarter of 2020 so that implementation can start in the same year.

A.1.1.2: Public display and review of conservation management plans and zoning designs.

Once the conservation management plans for the four National Parks are completed, they will be printed and made available for public consultation and comments over a period of three weeks. Hard copies of the plans will be displayed in District Administrations Offices and libraries along with a book for comments. The plans will also be downloadable from the website of the DGEF. This will ensure that everyone concern have the opportunity to provide their feedback on the plans being proposed and ensure maximum level of transparency.

A.1.1.3: Organisation of stakeholders' validation workshops.

Once the comments on the content of the conservation management plans are received from all concern stakeholders they will be addressed by individual consultants involved to the extent possible. The revised management plans and their proposed strategies will then be presented to stakeholders in a workshop for final validation. A stakeholders' validation workshop will be organised for each of the four National Park. This will provide stakeholders with a last opportunity to provide comments on the content of the management plans and will also be the opportunity for them to endorse them.

A.1.1.4: Preparation of Cabinet memorandum for government endorsement of conservation management plans.

Once the conservation management plans for the four National Parks have been endorsed by stakeholders, a Cabinet memorandum will be prepared to request the Government of Comoros to approve the plans so that their implementation could start. The memorandum will provide a brief overview of the process used for development of the plans and the changes that the implementation of the plans are expected to bring and how it fits into the Comoros Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.

Outcome 2: Ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass areas enhanced through habitat rehabilitation.

Output 2.1: Approved project's science plan.

Activity 2.1: Drafting of project's science plan.

Before rehabilitation activities starts in the Shisiwani National Park, a project science plan will be produced. The science will provide detailed information on everything that needs to be done for the successful implementation of the ecosystem rehabilitation. It will detailed things such as the restoration sites, areas where different species of mangrove or seagrass would be used, baseline assessments to be undertaken, methods that would be used, community involvement, site access protocols, evaluation and monitoring protocols, etc.

Output 2.2: Capacity building of project participants.

A 2.2.1: Organisation of trainings in habitat rehabilitation.

Trainings will be provided to project participants involved in habitat rehabilitation. The aim of the training is to ensure that all project participants understand the methods that are being used and why things are done in particular ways. The training workshops will allow participants to understand the basic principles underlying habitat rehabilitation and provide them with practical skills in rehabilitation.

Output 2.3: 1 ha of mangrove and 1 ha of seagrass habitats rehabilitated.

A 2.3.1: Rehabilitation of one mangrove site.

Rehabilitation of the selected mangrove site will be undertaken according to the Science Plan. The methods identified in the Science Plan will be based on the WIOSAP Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines. Care will be taken to ensure that the rehabilitated mangrove area looks

as much as possible like natural mangrove with mixed species distribution. Each mangrove seedling planted will be given an identification code to enable their growth and survival to be monitored.

A 2.3.2: Rehabilitation of one seagrass site.

Likewise, rehabilitation of the selected seagrass site will be undertaken according to the Science Plan. The methods identified in the Science Plan will be based on the WIOSAP Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines. Care will be taken to ensure that the rehabilitated seagrass area looks as much as possible like natural seagrass with mixed species distribution.

A 2.3.3: Monitoring of mangrove growth and survival.

Monitoring of mangrove plants growth and survival will be undertaken on a quarterly basis. During each monitoring session, the number of planted mangrove seedlings planted will be counted an index of survival (Si) will be calculated for each quarter (Si = Number of mangrove seedling surviving/ Number of mangrove seedlings planted). The growth of mangrove seedlings will also be monitored for a sub-sample of mangrove seedlings planted by measuring the height of the seedling from the bottom of the stem (on the soil line) to the top of the apical bud. The monitoring programme would allow for collection of important data on survival and growth of different types of mangrove species in different environment, which could be used to guide future mangrove restoration efforts at other locations.

A 2.3.4: Monitoring of seagrass growth and survival.

Mangrove growth and survival will be undertaken on a quarterly basis at the rehabilitation sites using fix quadrats. A minimum of 20 x 1m2 quadrats will be monitored. In each quadrat, seagrass cover will be visually estimated by trained observers and average canopy height will be measured. The percentage cover of different seagrass species in each quadrat will also be recorded. Other information to be collected as art of the monitoring programme includes water temperature, in-water horizontal visibility and sediment characteristics. Quadrats of 1 m^2 quadrats provide an appropriate scale in which seagrass growth can be monitored based on the size of seagrass plants and growth rate. A minimum of 20 replicate is deem to be enough to statistically pick up any variability that may be present within the restoration area. Fixed quadrats is a method which is widely used in marine and terrestrial system to monitor changes in habitat. The method is straight forward and easy to use.

Outcome 3: Improved learning and development of competencies to implement environment conservation projects.

Output 3.1: Education and awareness campaign implemented.

A 3.1.1: Development of a communication plan.

A communication plan for the project will be prepared within the first two months of the initiation of the project. The communication plan will facilitate communication on the project's outcomes, outputs and activities with the project team and other stakeholders. The communication plan will set clear guidelines about how information will be shared, the expected impacts of the information as well as who is responsible and who will be participating in

communication activities. The communication plan will contribute to project efficiency by: i) Creating clear written documentation that can easily be shared, ii) ensuring the project continues to align with its original objectives, iii) setting plans on what type of communication materials will be produced, when and at what cost, iv) providing opportunities for team members to share feedbacks, and iv) increasing project visibility and status.

A 3.2.2: Development and dissemination of knowledge products.

The education and awareness campaign will make use of different media forms to raise awareness of local communities on the needs, opportunities and benefits of managing critical shallow marine ecosystems through conservation in MPAs and ecosystem restoration at sites which have been impacted by human activities. Social media will be used extensively to keep the general public informed of what the project is doing. Items that will be produced as part of the media campaign will include newspaper articles (at least 2), social media post (at least 10), documentaries, radio and TV interviews (at least 2), short video clips (at least 3), posters, multimedia presentations, etc…. The media campaign will be used to explain to the public the reason behind this project and the benefits that it could bring to local communities of the Comoros.

Output 3.2: Project efficiently implemented.

A 3.2.1: Setting up of a Project Management Committee and organization of quarterly meetings.

A Project Management Committee (PMC) will be set up to oversee the implementation of this project. The PMC will have at least five members. The suggested composition of the PMC includes one representative from the General Directorate of Environment and Forests, one representative from the Protected Areas National Network Project, one representative from a local NGO, one representative from each of the participating National Parks and one community member. Meetings of the PMC will be held on a quarterly basis and be used to discuss progress of the work, impediments, education and awareness as well as project monitoring, evaluation and reporting. It will be the responsibility of the PMC to ensure that the project is implemented in a timely manner and that all project members are kept up to date on progress being made.

A 3.2.2: Organization of biannual project workshops.

The objectives of the biannual workshops is to meet with all project partners and the local communities to discuss the results of the project thus far obtained and the work plan for the coming six months. These workshops would ensure that the project is implemented in a manner which is fully transparent and will ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to provide their input on project implementation. Such workshop would ensure that there is ownership of the project by local communities. Each workshop will be held at a different project sites.

A 3.2.3: Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.

Project monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken every 6 months by a selected staff member from the General Directorate of Environment and Forests, who is not directly involved with the implementation of this project. Monitoring will assess the degree of implementation of each activity and whether satisfactory progress is being made. After the completion of each

monitoring and evaluation session a technical report will be produced and presented to the Project Management Committee with recommendations on way forward. This activity will ensure that the project is able to track its implementation against pre-set targets and objectives and ensure that resources are being used in the most efficient manner.

A 3.2.4: Organization of final project workshop.

An end of project workshop will be organized within a month before the official end of the project. The aim of the end of project workshop is to present the success and challenges encountered during the implementation of the project to project implementers, stakeholders and members of the public. Successes will be highlighted as well as lessons learned. Recommendations will be made on the things that could be improved. An exit strategy will be discussed. The exit strategy will include information on how to keep the initiative going after the lifetime of this current project.

A 3.2.5: Preparation of final project report.

A full project technical report will be produced at the end of the project. It will provide a comprehensive report on all activities undertaken as part of the initiative and the level of success of each activity. It will highlight the achievements of the project as well as it successes and lessons learnt. The project implementation reports that will be produced regularly during the implementation of this project will be used to provide information for the technical report.

C. Project Beneficiaries

The main beneficiary of this project will be the entire 790,000 strong population of the Comoros. The islands of the Comoros are relatively small and mountainous which forces the majority of the population to live in the narrow coastal areas. The population is thus highly dependent on the good and services offered by the coastal and marine environment, of which 630 km2, mostly of productive marine areas will be under active management by the end of this project. The local communities living in and around the four sites where project activities will be implemented will see the greatest benefits through improvement in the management of marine habitats around the areas where they live and through greater targeting by the education and awareness campaign. The local communities will also benefit through trainings in habitat restoration that will be organised as part of this project. Capacity building will target different age groups in the local communities as well as girls and women to promote gender balance. Institutionally, Comoros National Parks and the sites co-management committees will be the main beneficiaries since project activities will lead to improved management of the sites already designated and in the process of designation as National Parks through stakeholders validated and government approved management plans. These management plans will establish clear targets, priorities and implementation modalities for the management of these sites. The General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF) will also be a major beneficiary as the objectives and expected outcomes of the project is consistent with the Comoros National Protected Areas Network implementation strategic priority of biodiversity conservation with local communities' engagement. The project will catalyse actions to deliver on the outputs identified in several national policies of the Comoros government and help Comoros Environment Board to deliver on part of its commitment to the Aichi engagement, by having 27% of Comoros territory classified as protected areas under effective co-management with the involvement of local

communities by 2021. Other project beneficiaries will include tourism operators which make use of these sites for marine tourism activities. Intended beneficiaries will be involved in project implementation through their representation on the Project Management Committee, responsible for overseeing all aspects of project implementation.

D. Implementing agency management of project

The project will be implemented by the General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF) in collaboration with the Protected Areas National Network Project (RNAP). The DGEF is the national entity responsible for environmental management and all components that derive from the environment such as, biodiversity, forests, climate change and other issues. The Protected Areas National Network Project (RNAP) its Comoros government initiative with financial support of the GEF, which has embarked on the implementation of a major project aimed at establishing an expanded national network of terrestrial and marine protected areas, representative of unique natural heritage of Comoros and co-managed with local communities. Implementation of the RNAP project began in 2015 to expand and strengthen the national system of protected areas by adding five new sites, protecting various terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, and contributing a significant share of the land and sea landscape of the three islands under protection. The Protected Areas National Network Project (RNAP) and DGEF are composed by a team of experts. The General Directorate for the Environment and Forest (DGEF) will assign an expert for the coordination of the project and three technical experts, based on each of the three islands where project activities will be implemented. These technical experts will be responsible for finalising the draft site management plans and coordination of project activities on the three islands. The three technical experts will be under the direct supervision of Mr.Houssoyni Housseni, the Warden of the Anjouan Protected Areas and the Technical Coordinator of the Comoros Protected Areas National Network Project. A Project Management Committee with representation of key project partners will be constituted at the start of the project (see details under Activity 3.1) to oversee project implementation.

V. PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Three major activities will be implemented as part of this project. These include: i) Drafting of four MPA site management plans, ii) rehabilitation of at least 1 ha of seagrass and 1 ha of mangrove areas and iii) education and awareness of local communities on conservation of threatened marine habitats. Site management plans are expected to be developed through (i) utilisation of existing research and local knowledge, (ii) consultation with relevant stakeholders, and (iii) the incorporation of international best practices, such as the IUCN Best Practice Guidelines on Management Planning. The project will ensure that all management plans are prepared in a standard format and are aligned with the requirements of the Comoros National Protected Areas Network Development Strategy. Habitat rehabilitation will be undertaken through extensive collaboration among various partners including the General Directorate of Environment and Forests (DGEF), Comoros National Parks, the Protected Areas National Network Project, local and regional NGOs and community members. Rehabilitation work will focus on mangrove and seagrass ecosystems as these are the most affected by human activities and have the greatest potential of being successful as a result of faster growth rate of mangrove and seagrass compared to hard corals, and simpler logistical requirements. Restoration work will be implemented according to the Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines and Seagrass Ecosystem Restoration Guidelines produced by the WIOSAP project. As previously described

under Activity 3.2, the education and awareness campaign will make use of different media forms to raise awareness of local communities on the needs, opportunities and benefits of managing critical shallow marine ecosystems through conservation in MPAs and habitat rehabilitation at sites which have been impacted by human activities. Social media will be used extensively to keep the general public informed of what the project is doing. Items that will be produced as part of the media campaign will include newspaper articles (at least 2), social media post (at least 10), documentaries, radio and TV interviews (at least 2), short video clips (at least 3), posters, multimedia presentations.

VI. SUSTAINABILITY AND REPLICABILITY

The project has high potential to be replicated at other locations within the Sishiwani National Park and other protected and non-protected sites throughout the Comoros. Capacity building in mangrove and seagrass rehabilitation that will be organized as part of project activities will equip multiple members of partner organisations with the necessary skills in planning and undertaking habitat rehabilitation activities. The fact that the rehabilitated sites will be in a formally protected area will also ensure sustainability as this area will be under active management. The Site management plans that will be prepared for the four National Parks will also contribute to project sustainability by ensuring that the critical marine and coastal habitats found within these sites are managed according to clear conservation objectives. As such, marine habitat rehabilitation at impacted locations within the National Parks will form an integral part of the activities proposed in the site management plans. The performance of the plans will be measured as part of their Performance Measurement System (PMS). The PMS will provide clear lists of target(s) in terms of deliverables and timeline for each activity and the indicator which should be used to assess performance, hence keeping track of the implementation of individual activity. Annual performance evaluations will also contribute to sustainability since evaluation reports will be submitted to the Board of Directors of Comoros National Parks to provide them with an overview of the project implementation and how it is complementing other activities being implemented at the national and community level. The management plans will also include procedures for their revision before the end of their lifespan, thereby ensuring that the sites continue to have management plans and continue to be managed in an effective, efficient and sustainable manner. The local capacity developed in habitat rehabilitation through the implementation of this project will give donors more confidence on the ability of the Comoros to implement habitat rehabilitation projects and should make it easier for the DGEF, Comoros National Parks, participating NGOs and community groups to raise funds to replicate such type of activities in the future.

VII. PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of this project since it has also been structured as a project activity (Activity 3.4). Project monitoring and evaluation will be undertaken every 6 months by a selected staff member from the General Directorate of Environment and Forests, who is not directly involved with the implementation of this project. This is in accordance with the Comoros Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation which gives the responsibility of coordination of the Government's and NGOs' actions to protect marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems to the DGEF. Monitoring will assess the degree of implementation of each activity and whether satisfactory progress is being made against set indicators as detailed in the Project Monitoring Plan (Annex 3). After the completion of each monitoring and evaluation session a

technical report will be produced and presented to the Project Management Committee with recommendations on way forward. This activity will ensure that the project is able to track its implementation against pre-set targets and objectives and ensure that resources are being used in the most efficient manner. As the project have a relatively short implementation time frame, project monitoring will also be combined with project evaluation in order to assess not only implementation of project activity but also determine whether progress is being made towards achievement of project outcomes. Final Evaluation will take place one month prior to project completion and will focus on identifying the degree to which outcomes have been delivered and unintended benefits that the project have brought. The final evaluation will also seek to establish whether adequate project exit strategy have been put in place and is being implemented to ensure sustainability and opportunities to replicate and upscale beneficial and successfully implemented project activities.

VIII. BUDGET

Activity	Unit cost (US$)	No.	Total cost (US$)	Categories
Outcome1: Management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros is strengthened through improved management planning.			**50,000.00**	
A.1.1.1: Drafting of four conservation management plans and spatial zoning designs.			***37,700.00***	
Project coordinator allowance (monthly)	400	15	6,000.00	Personnel
Sub-consultants salary	300	80	24,000.00	Contract Services
Meetings	500	4	2,000.00	Operating costs
Inter-islands travel	500	4	2,000.00	Travel
GIS support	300	4	1,200.00	Contract Services
Secretarial support	500	4	2,000.00	Personnel
Printing and stationaries	125	4	500.00	Operating costs
A.1.1.2: Public display and review of conservation management plans and zoning designs.			**2,500.00**	
Printing and stationaries	125	4	500.00	Operating costs
Advertisements	500	4	2000	Operating costs
A.1.1.3: Organisation of stakeholders' validation workshops.			**9,200.00**	
Meeting room rental	800	4	3,200.00	Operating costs
Catering	1000	4	4,000.00	Operating costs
Travel	500	4	2,000.00	Travel
A.1.1.4: Preparation of Cabinet memorandum for government endorsement of conservation management plans.			**600.00**	
Sub-consultant salary	300	2	600.00	Contract Services
Outcome 2: Ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass areas enhanced through habitat rehabilitation.			**40,550.00**	
A 2.1.1: Drafting of project's science plan.			**600.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	2	600.00	Contract Services
A 2.2.1: Organisation of trainings in habitat rehabilitation.			**5,750.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	6	1,800.00	Contract Services
Meeting room rental	400	3	1,200.00	Operating costs
Printing and stationaries	50	1	50.00	Operating costs
Equipment	200	1	200.00	Equipment
Catering	500	3	1,500.00	Operating costs
Travel	1000	1	1,000.00	Travel
A 2.3.1: Rehabilitation of one mangrove site.			**13,000.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	20	6,000.00	Contract Services
Equipment	2000	1	2,000.00	Equipment
Field cost	5000	1	5,000.00	Operating costs
A 2.3.2: Rehabilitation of one seagrass site.			**15,000.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	20	6,000.00	Contract Services
Equipment	2000	1	2,000.00	Equipment
Field cost	7000	1	7,000.00	Operating costs
A 2.3.3: Monitoring of mangrove growth and survival.			**3,100.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	6	1,800.00	Contract Services
Equipment	300	1	300.00	Equipment
Field cost	1000	1	1,000.00	Operating costs
A 2.3.4: Monitoring of seagrass growth and survival.			**3,100.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	6	1,800.00	Contract Services
Equipment	300	1	300.00	Equipment
Field cost	1000	1	1,000.00	Operating costs

Outcome 3: Improved learning and development of competencies to implement environment conservation projects.			**29,450.00**	
A 3.1.1: Development of a communication strategy.			**600.00**	
Sub-consultant salary	300	2	600.00	Personnel
A 3.1.2: Development of knowledge products.			**7,650.00**	
Preparation of newspaper articles	50	2	100.00	Operating costs
Social media material production and management	750	1	750.00	Operating costs
Documentary production and broadcasting	4000	1	4,000.00	Operating costs
Production and printing of posters	300	2	600.00	Operating costs
Multimedia presentations	100	3	300.00	Operating costs
Project banner	100	1	100	Operating costs
Travel	1000	1	1,000.00	Travel
Travel allowance	100	8	800	Travel
A 3.2.1: Setting up of a Project Management Committee and organization of quarterly meetings.			**4,800.00**	
Inter-islands travel	500	4	2,000.00	Travel
Meeting room rental	200	4	800.00	Operating costs
Printing and stationaries	50	4	200.00	Operating costs
Travel allowance	100	16	1,600.00	Travel
Secretarial support	50	4	200.00	Personnel
A 3.2.2: Organization of biannual project workshops.			**7,200.00**	
Sub-consultants salary	300	2	600.00	Contract Services
Meeting room rental	400	1	400.00	Operating costs
Printing and stationaries	100	1	100.00	Operating costs
Travel allowance	100	30	3,000.00	Travel
Secretarial support	50	2	100.00	Personnel
Catering	1500	1	1,500.00	Operating costs
Inter-islands travel	1500	1	1,500.00	Travel
A 3.2.3: Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.			**1,100.00**	
Inter-islands travel	500	1	500.00	Travel
Travel allowance	100	3	300.00	Travel
Report preparation	300	1	300.00	Personnel
A 3.2.4: Organization of final project workshop.			**7,500.00**	
Inter-islands travel	1500	1	1,500.00	Travel
Travel allowance	100	32	3,200.00	Travel
Report preparation	300	2	600.00	Personnel
Meeting room rental	400	1	400.00	Operating costs
Printing and stationaries	100	1	100.00	Operating costs
Secretarial support	50	4	200.00	Operating costs
Catering	1500	1	1,500.00	Operating costs
A 3.2.5: Preparation of final project report.			**600.00**	
Sub-consultant salary	300	2	600.00	Personnel
GRAND TOTAL			**120,000.00**	

Annex1: Workplan

		Year 1			Year 2											
Task	**Responsible**	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Overall objective:																
Outcome 1: Management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros is strengthened through improved management planning.																
Output 1.1: Stakeholders validated and government approved conservation management plans for the Mohéli National Park, Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and the Shisiwani National Park.																
A.1.1.1: Drafting of four conservation management plans and spatial zoning designs.	CNP/RNAP															
A.1.1.2: Public display and review of conservation management plans and zoning designs.	CNP/RNAP															
A.1.1.3: Organisation of stakeholders' validation workshops.	CNP/RNAP															
A.1.1.4: Preparation of Cabinet memorandum for government endorsement of conservation management plans.	DGEF/CNP															
Outcome 2: Ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass areas enhanced through habitat rehabilitation.																
Output 2.1: Approved project's science plan.																
A 2.1.1: Drafting of project's science plan.	CNP/RNAP															
Output 2.2: Capacity building of project participants.																
A 2.2.1: Organisation of trainings in habitat rehabilitation.	CNP/RNAP/APEC															
Output 2.3: 1 ha of mangrove and 1 ha of seagrass habitats rehabilitated.																
A 2.3.1: Rehabilitation of one mangrove site.	CNP/APEC															
A 2.3.2: Rehabilitation of one seagrass site.	CNP/APEC															
A 2.3.3: Monitoring of mangrove growth and survival.	CNP/APEC															
A 2.3.4: Monitoring of seagrass growth and survival.	CNP/APEC															
Outcome 3: Improved learning and development of competencies to implement environment conservation projects.																
Output 3.1: Education and awareness campaign implemented.																
A 3.1.1: Development of a communication plan.	CNP/RNAP/APEC/LC															
A 3.1.2: Development and dissemination of knowledge	CNP/RNAP/APEC/LC															

products.																
Output 3.2: Project efficiently implemented.																
A 3.2.1: Setting up of a Project Management Committee and organization of quarterly meetings.	DGEF/CNP/RNAP															
A 3.2.2: Organization of biannual project workshops.	CNP/APEC															
A 3.2.3: Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation.	DGEF															
A 3.2.4: Organization of final project workshop.	CNP/APEC															
A 3.2.5: Preparation of final project report.	CNP/RNAP/DGEF/APEC															

Annex 2: Logical Framework

Project title: Sustainable management of shallow marine habitats in the Comoros through improved management planning and rehabilitation of degraded sites.			
Project overall objective: To strengthen the management of critical shallow marine habitats in the Comoros.			
Project Results	**Outputs**	**Activities**	**Costs /output (US$)**
Outcome 1: Management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros is strengthened through improved management planning.	O.1.1: Stakeholders validated and government approved conservation management plans for the Mohéli National Park, Coelacanth National Park, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé National Park and the Shisiwani National Park.	A.1.1.1: Drafting of four conservation management plans and spatial zoning designs. A.1.1.2: Public display and review of conservation management plans and zoning designs. A.1.1.3: Organisation of stakeholders' validation workshops. A.1.1.4: Preparation of Cabinet memorandum for government endorsement of conservation management plans.	37,700.00 2,500.00 9,200.00 600.00
Outcome 2: Ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass areas enhanced through habitat rehabilitation.	O.2.1: Approved project's science plan.	A 2.1.1: Drafting of project's science plan.	600.00
	O.2.2: Capacity building of project participants.	A 2.2.1: Organisation of trainings in habitat rehabilitation.	5,750.00
	O.2.3: 1 ha of mangrove and 1 ha of seagrass habitats rehabilitated.	A 2.3.1: Rehabilitation of one mangrove site. A 2.3.2: Rehabilitation of one seagrass site. A 2.3.3: Monitoring of mangrove growth and survival. A 2.3.4: Monitoring of seagrass growth and survival.	13,000.00 15,000.00 3,100.00 3,100.00
Outcome 3: Improved learning and development of competencies to implement environment conservation projects.	O.3.1: Education and awareness campaign implemented.	A 3.1.1: Development of a communication plan. A 3.1.2: Development and dissemination of knowledge products.	600.00 7,650.00
	O.3.2: Project efficiently implemented.	A 3.2.1: Setting up of a Project Management Committee and organization of quarterly meetings. A 3.2.2: Organization of biannual project workshops. A 3.2.3: Monitoring and evaluation of project implementation. A 3.2.4: Organization of final project workshop. A 3.2.5: Preparation of final project report.	4,800.00 7,200.00 1,100.00 7,500.00 600.00

Annex 3: Project Monitoring Plan

Project Title: Sustainable management of shallow marine habitats in the Comoros through improved management planning and rehabilitation of degraded sites.			
Project overall objective: To strengthen the management of critical shallow marine habitats in the Comoros.			
Project Results	**Indicator**	**Target/baseline**	**Method**
Outcome 1: Management of four Marine Protected Areas in the Comoros is strengthened through improved management planning.	**IND.1.1:** Stakeholders' validated and government approved conservation management plans in used in the Mohéli Coelacanth, Mitsamiouli-Ndroudé and Shisiwani National Parks.	**Target:** Four conservation management plans in use. **Baseline:** No conservation management plans in use.	This indicator will be validated by documenting the number of conservation management plans which have been validated by stakeholders and approved by Government for implementation.
Outcome 2: Ecosystem integrity of mangrove and seagrass areas enhanced through habitat rehabilitation.	**IND.2.1:** Area of degraded mangrove and seagrass habitat rehabilitated.	**Target:** 1 ha of seagrass habitat, 1 ha of mangrove habitat. **Baseline:** 0 ha of seagrass habitat, 0 ha of mangrove habitat.	The length and width of the area in which seagrass and mangrove rehabilitation has been undertaken will be measured at the end of the project and used to calculate area. For an area to be considered as rehabilitated it will need to have a minimum of 30% vegetation cover.
Outcome 3: Improved learning and development of competencies to implement environment conservation projects.	**IND.3.1:** Score from project participants' feedback on satisfaction with project implementation.	**Target:** Average 75% satisfaction. **Baseline:** Not applicable.	Close to the end of the project an assessment form will be designed to get feedback from project participants on their level of satisfaction on implementation of different aspects of the project. Feedback will be sought on such aspects as: project coordination, working environment, quality of training courses, capacity building, consultative process, etc.. Participants will be asked to provide a score from 1 to 10 (1 being least and 10 being most satisfactory) for each component assessed. Scores will be averaged to calculate an overall level of satisfaction.

Annex 4: Budget (Total budget for the Output applied for MUST NEVER exceed the ceiling given in the background document)

	Category	Quantity	Unit Cost (US$)	Total Cost (US$)	WIOSAP Support	Co-financing (In kind)
1.	**Personnel**	32	325.00	6,900.00	4,400.00	2,500.00
2.	**Equipment**	5	960.00	6,800.00	4,800.00	2,000.00
3.	**Operating costs**	57	701.75	43,000.00	40,000.00	3,000.00
4.	**Contract Services**	163	300.00	50,400.00	50,400.00	0.00
5.	**Travel**	106	192.45	20,400.00	20,400.00	0.00

Annex 4.1: Budget justification

	Category	Justification
1.	**Personnel**	Personnel costs under this project cover cost related to work input by staff already in employment by the project partners. It will cover such expenses such as an allowance for the project coordinator, fees for secretarial support (e.g. typing, printing, driving and delivery).
2.	**Equipment**	Equipment are required under this project to facilitate project implementation. Equipment that will be purchased includes things such as measuring tapes, GPS, project lap tops, spades, cameras. Without these equipment the project team will have difficulty in implementing the project activities and in capturing project learning.
3.	**Operating costs**	Operating costs are all the cost required to implement the project on the field. These include costs such as the organisation of meetings of the Project Management Committee (PMC), production and distribution of education and awareness materials, meeting room rentals, printing, stationeries, etc.
4.	**Contract Services**	Contractual services will cover cost of technical work that needs to be implemented by the project such as the drafting of the conservation management plans, coordination of habitat rehabilitation work on sites. These are critical work for the success of the project and require dedicated inputs for the project to deliver the expected outputs and outcomes.
5.	**Travel**	Travel cost under this project are necessary since the project will be implemented on a number of islands. Travel cost will cover the cost associated with project consultants from different islands travelling to attend meetings and workshops as well as the cost to get project participants together to discuss project results and recommendations as part of biannual and final project workshops.