

## CI-GEF PROJECT AGENCY SCREENING RESULTS AND SAFEGUARD ANALYSIS

(To be completed by CI-GEF Coordination Team)

### I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data	
Country: Comoros	GEF Project ID: 5784
Project Title: A landscape management model for conserving biodiversity in the Comoro Islands	
Executing Entity: Dahari	
GEF Focal Area: Biodiversity, Land degradation, Sustainable Forest Management	
GEF Project Amount: US\$85,000	
Reviewer(s): Ian Kissoon	
Date of Review/Update: June 17, 2016, July 29, 2016	
Comments: Analysis completed and approved	

#### B. Project Objective:

The project seeks to consolidate the landscape management approach in the Moya Forest KBA so that lessons can be learnt at the national level and integrated into legislation and policy. With the support of international partners, efforts will continue to improve and expand agricultural and agroforestry interventions and reduce pressure on forest and improve livelihoods, and to reinforce management regimes for remaining forest areas.

#### C. Project Description:

Despite being part of one of the world's hotspots for biodiversity conservation, the Comoro Islands lack any terrestrial conservation measures. The country lost 24% of its forest between 1990 and 2015 (FAO, 2015), a consequence of high poverty rates, extremely high population pressure, and a high dependence on agriculture for livelihoods, amongst other factors. The main threats to natural forest cover are the extension of the agricultural frontier and the cutting of old-growth trees for timber. Charcoal, wood for cooking and for ylang ylang distillation come mainly from agroforestry areas.

The implementation of forest management measures is critical for the future of the country and its biodiversity, but efforts are complicated by weak governance at all levels. Since 2013, Dahari has been developing the first ever forest management actions for the Comoros in three upland villages in the southern Moya forest region. Tree nurseries managed by community bodies were installed, and the first reforestation programme implemented in early 2016. Reforestation is also underway in key biodiversity hotspots surrounding roost sites of the Livingstone's fruit bat. These efforts follow work to intensify agricultural and agroforestry production with over 3,500 farmers dating back to 2008. The agricultural development work aims to increase yields in fields further down the slopes so as to reduce pressure for new fields in upland forest areas; this permits the implementation of forest management measures without impacting negatively on livelihoods.

The project will be implemented under the following components:

Component 1: Implementation of forest management regimes and reforestation of degraded zones

Component 2: Implementation of measures to protect biodiversity hotspots

Component 3: Agricultural and agroforestry development to improve livelihoods

Component 4: Publicizing landscape management model and integrating into national policy and legislation

**D. Project location and biophysical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis:**

The project is located in Moya Forest near Anjouan in Comoros, which is part of the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot.

The Comoros lost 24% of its forests between 1990 and 2015, one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. The heavy deforestation threatens the livelihoods of both the local population – through loss of water resources and soil fertility – and endemic biodiversity, with over 20 terrestrial species listed as vulnerable or worse on the IUCN’s Red List. The situation is particularly critical on Anjouan where population pressure of over 600 people/km<sup>2</sup> is one of the highest in the world, and where deforestation has led to the loss of around 40 of 50 previously permanent rivers.

Women and men both work on agriculture - women more involved with agriculture closer to the villages such as market gardening, whilst men manage plots further up near the forest. In this predominantly Moslem population, women are under-represented in community decision-making bodies though over a third of the farmers are women. 50% of population lives below the international poverty line and over 90% are dependent on agriculture. Natural resource use at the household level includes firewood, charcoal and wood for construction.

**E. Executing Entity’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:**

Not assessed

**II. SAFEGUARD AND POLICIES**

**Environmental and Social Safeguards:**

Safeguard Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Date Completed
<b>1. Environmental &amp; Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)</b>		X		
<i>Justification: No significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are sensitive, diverse, or unprecedented is anticipated</i>				
<b>2. Natural Habitats</b>		X		
<i>Justification: The project is not proposing to alter natural habitats</i>				
<b>3. Involuntary Resettlement</b>	X			
<i>Justification: The project does not propose any involuntary resettlement but will propose restrictions on access to natural resources (timber)</i>				
<b>4. Indigenous Peoples</b>		X		
<i>Justification: The project will involve peasant communities comprising people of mixed-races, a product of Spanish influence and ancient indigenous communities of Chachapoyas and Inca influence.</i>				

<b>5. Pest Management</b>		<b>X</b>		
<i>Justification: The project does not plan to implement activities related to agricultural extension services including the use of approved pesticides or alien invasive species management</i>				
<b>6. Physical &amp; Cultural Resources</b>		<b>X</b>		
<i>Justification: There are no proposed activities related to physical and cultural resources.</i>				
<b>7. Stakeholder Engagement</b>	<b>X</b>			
<i>Justification: The project will involve local communities and effective participation of these key stakeholders must be facilitated by the project.</i>				
<b>8. Gender mainstreaming</b>	<b>X</b>			
<i>Justification: The project activities will target both men and women.</i>				
<b>9. Accountability and Grievance Mechanisms</b>	<b>X</b>			
<i>Justification: As a publicly funded GEF project, participants need to be able submit complaints or raise grievances with the Executing Agency and the Project Agency.</i>				

### III. KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

*From information provided in the Safeguard Screening Form, this project has triggered four safeguard policies. These are:*

- I. Involuntary Resettlement,*
- II. Stakeholder Engagement,*
- III. Gender Mainstreaming, and*
- IV. Grievance Mechanism.*

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

*No indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities are foreseen at this time.*

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts:

*The proposed approach of the project is expected to avoid or minimize adverse impacts. As such, no better alternative can be conceived at this time.*

4. Describe measures to be taken by the Executing Entity to address safeguard policy issues.

- I. Restriction of Access to/Use of Natural Resources (Involuntary Resettlement policy)  
This project will trigger restriction of access to and use of natural resources. This is can be a sensitive issue, particularly for people whose survival and livelihood depend on such resources. Stakeholder engagement will be key here and should be among the very first set of activities. The resource users need to be aware upfront of the project and how it will affect them, and the*

*project in turn will need to address their concerns. Following initial consultations, the project is **required** to prepare a simplified Process Framework document describing the following:*

- (a) conservation actions to be undertaken by the resource users,*
- (b) the short-term and long-term implications (economical, environmental and social/cultural) of the conservation actions, and*
- (c) consent of the resource users for the implementation of the conservation actions.*

*The simplified Process Framework document must be approved by the Executing Entity before being implemented.*

**II. Stakeholder Engagement**

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** ensure active stakeholder participation and to reflect stakeholder engagement activities in the annual workplan. Please document the date, location and participants (gender disaggregated) along with meeting notes of all stakeholder engagement activities. The documentation of these activities can be supported (not required) with photographs, video and audio recordings.*

*Also agree with stakeholders on where, when and how information will be disseminated back to them following a meeting/consultation.*

**III. Gender**

*Given the small size of the project grant, a Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP) is not being requested. However, the project is **required** to reflect gender disaggregated activities in the annual workplan. The design of activities and consultations should consider the needs and schedules of both men and women. Please document how many men and women were consulted, participated in project activities, and benefitted/affected by the project. Also ensure that men and women are not adversely impacted and receive equal opportunities in planning, decision-making and implementation in a way that is culturally appropriate and acceptable.*

**IV. Grievance Mechanism**

*An Accountability and Grievance Mechanism is **required** to ensure people affected by the project are able to bring their grievances to the Executing Entity for consideration and redress. The mechanism must be in place before the start of project activities, and also disclosed to all stakeholders in a manner/means that best suits the local context.*

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people:

*The key stakeholders are the local communities, and the local, regional and national governmental agencies. The mechanisms for consultation and disclosure should be culturally appropriate, gender sensitive, effective, and in keeping with local customs. Engagement can take the form of village meetings, group meetings, workshops, interviews/surveys, etc. and done using local languages and methods. The Executing Entity should take these contexts into consideration when designing engagement activities.*




#### IV. PROJECT CATEGORIZATION

PROJECT CATEGORY	Category A	Category B	Category C
<i>Justification: The proposed project activities are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.</i>			

#### V. EXPECTED DISCLOSURE DATES

Safeguard Plan	CI Disclosure Date	In-Country Disclosure Date
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)	NA	NA
Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	NA	NA
Voluntary Resettlement Action Plan (V- RAP)	NA	NA
Process Framework for Restriction of Access to Natural Resources	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval
Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)	NA	NA
Pest Management Plan (PMP)	NA	NA
Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan	SEP not required. SE activities to be included in the annual workplan
Gender Mainstreaming Plan (GMP)	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan	GMP not required. GM activities to be included in the annual workplan
Accountability and Grievance Mechanism	Within 15 days of CI-GEF approval	No later than inception workshop/kick-off meeting

#### VI. APPROVALS

<b>Signed and submitted by:</b>		
<b>Vice President:</b> 	<b>Name:</b> Miguel Morales	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>		
<b>Safeguard Manager:</b> 	<b>Name:</b> Ian Kissoon	<b>Date:</b> 2016-07-29
<b>Project Manager:</b> 	<b>Name:</b> Orissa Samaroo	<b>Date:</b> 2016-08-04

