



ADAPTATION FUND

### ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: Regular-sized Project Concept

**Country/Region:** Comoros  
**Project Title:** Enhancing youth entrepreneurship through Climate Resilient Opportunities (ECO-Youth)  
**Thematic Focal Area:** Rural Development  
**Implementing Entity:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)  
**Executing Entities:** Ministry of the Environment in charge of Tourism  
**AF Project ID:** AF00000403  
**IE Project ID:** **Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 10,000,000**  
**Reviewer and contact person:** Naoki Uozawa **Co-reviewer(s):** Marcus Johannesson  
**IE Contact Person:**

Technical Summary	<p>The project Enhancing youth entrepreneurship through Climate Resilient Opportunities (ECO-Youth) aims to contribute to poverty reduction and the strengthening of rural communities' resilience and adaptation to climate change. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Capacity building and green entrepreneurial and employment initiatives (USD 4,720,000);</p> <p><u>Component 2:</u> Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities (USD 3,045,000);</p> <p><u>Component 3:</u> Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment (USD 577,988).</p> <p><u>Requested financing overview:</u>  Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 873,612  Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 9,216,590  Implementing Fee: USD 783,410  Financing Requested: USD 10,000,000</p> <p>The first technical review raises several issues, such as climate change adaptation justification, ESP, Gender Policy, duplication of other programs/projects, full cost of adaptation, and results framework, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p>
Date:	27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024

Review Criteria	Questions	1 <sup>st</sup> Review Comments [27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024]	Answers
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Country Eligibility	1. Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol, and/or the Paris Agreement?	<b>Yes.</b>	
	2. Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	<b>Yes.</b> The Union of the Comoros is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, with 54.2% of the population living in high-risk areas (para 2). It is also both a LDC and a SIDS.	
Project Eligibility	1. Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?	<b>Yes.</b> As per the Endorsement letter dated 29/02/2024.	
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than Fifty pages for the project/programme concept, including its annexes?	<b>Yes.</b>  <b>CR1:</b> Please ensure coherence in the numbering of pages and tables, such as the duplication of Table 1.	<b>CR1:</b> Numbering of pages and tables has been adjusted.
	3. Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	<b>Not Cleared.</b>  The project aims to motivate the rural low-income youth, aged 15-35, in the agricultural sector to facilitate networking and improve job market prospects (p.12-13).  The proposal also describes the impact of climate change on agricultural resources, fishing resources, and water resources (p.9-10).  However, it lacks a detailed explanation of how the project components proposed solutions will lead to substantial tangible outcomes to address the adverse effects of climate change on agricultural, fishing and water resources.  <b>CAR1:</b> Please provide the climate change adaptation justification of the proposed solution. This may be articulated through a Theory of Change, which will assume what needs to change and in what way among actors and in-between actors. Define the	<b>CAR1:</b> The updated version of the proposal, the §38 provides details on how ECO-YOUTH will contribute to the 2020 NDC's planned adaptation measures of Comoros in the following sectors: i) Agricultural and livestock sectors; ii) Biodiversity and forests sectors; iii) Fishing and coastal and marine ecosystems; iv) Water resources; and v) Integration and awareness raising. In addition, the theory of change has been included in the proposal (cf. § 58).  <b>CR2.</b> Table 4 presents the most recent demographic data presenting, for each island: The groups of villages covered by the project, the total population (with the number of men and women), the total of young ( aged 18 to 35 ), the number of young directly targeted by the project. It is important to note that the national demographic data do not provide information at the village level, but at the regional level (i.e. for a set of villages). At the design phase the project will clearly identify the number of villages concerned as well as the number of target beneficiaries per village.

		<p>desired end-state and explain how specific actions will lead to the desired tangible outcomes.</p> <p>A brief description of the project site, including 66 villages across three islands of Anjouan, Moheli, and Grande Comore, and the target beneficiaries (6,000 low-income youth) have been provided.</p> <p><b>CR2:</b> Please specify each village and provide an estimated number of target beneficiaries per village.</p>	
	<p>4. Does the project / programme provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The project targets 50% female beneficiaries, but does not include the required initial gender analysis and specific strategies to achieve the gender parity.</p> <p><b>CAR2:</b> Please provide an assessment at the earliest stage of project/programme preparation to determine the different needs, capabilities, roles and knowledge resources of women and men, and/or identify how changing gender dynamics might drive lasting change. The women's group met during the consultations process and other which together with desk research may suffice this demand while considering contextual, norms and intersectionality which make out barriers to gender equality. For guidance, please refer to the <a href="#">Gender Guidance Document (2022)</a>.</p>	<p><b>CAR2:</b> A preliminary gender assessment was carried out during the preparation of this concept note and the findings of the assessment have been integrated into the project activities and will be reinforced by the full gender assessment to be carried out at the full project proposal stage (cf. Section I-I, § 39 to §49.)</p> <p>The initial gender assessment addresses the question of gender in Comoros from the following angles: gender equality, gender, employment and economic activities; Land ownership; and Gender, environment and climate change, legal framework; Effectiveness of law enforcement; Policy framework;</p>
	<p>5. Is the project / programme cost effective?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The cost-effectiveness analysis presented in</p>	<p><b>CAR3:</b> In addition to the cost-effectiveness analysis presented in Table 6 the new section</p>

		<p>Table 4 compares scenarios with and without the project.</p> <p><b>CAR3:</b> Please provide a cost-focused analysis. Additionally, it would be beneficial to compare the proposed solution to alternative measures that address the impact of climate change. Please note that the cost effectiveness should be demonstrated from a sustainability point of view.</p>	<p>II-I, § 131 to §137, provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.</p> <p>A Cost-benefit analysis of the project will be conducted during the full design, based on models of agriculture, fisheries and greenhouse production and representative producers organizations in the three islands covered by the project, as well as environmental benefits and adaptive capacity. Net additional income will be estimated from the returns on agriculture investments, household operating accounts for production models, and business plans for Cooperatives. Data on these incomes will be extrapolated to the project's focal area. The goal is to assess the net additional income generated by the project. "adaptive" Benefits will be compared with project costs (with and without project scenarios) using efficiency indicators such as the Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return, the payback period, and the benefit-cost ratio over a 20-year economic lifespan. A sensitivity analysis will be carried out to assess the project's response to variations in costs and benefits, both on a variable-by-variable basis and through scenario analysis (e.g., simultaneous increases/decreases in aggregate benefits/costs and project benefit delays).</p>
	<p>6. Is the project / programme consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies, national or sub-national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>While the proposal refers to relevant national and sub-national sustainable development strategies (p. 9, 24-25) including environmental conventions resulting from Rio and strategies that flow from them (e.g., NAPA, NAP, NDC etc), as well as national strategies and policies related to biodiversity, poverty reduction, gender equality and youth, the project's adaptation justification must be clarified (see CAR1), to ensure that the project</p>	<p>As mentioned earlier (cf. CAR1) the contribution of ECO-YOUTH to the NDCs has been clarified (cf. §38).</p> <p>In addition, the Table 7 provides a compilation of the main sectoral priorities identified by the recent 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication on Climate Change (2023) as a grid for analyzing ECO-YOUTH activities.</p>

		adequately connects to and contribute to the implementation of mentioned strategies and plans.	
	7. Does the project / programme meet the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund?	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The project explains how the project meets the relevant national technical standards (p.25-26).</p> <p><b>CR3:</b> Given that one of the main target beneficiaries is young people aged 15-17. Please clarify that the proposed intervention complies with child labour laws, and is in compliance with the Funds <a href="#">Environmental and Social Policy</a> .</p>	<p><b>CR3:</b> The objective of the project is to support rural youth employment in resilient agricultural value chains. Consequently, the project will target underemployed youth. While national vocational centers engage youth aged between 15-35, in alignment with the country's definition of youth, the project will focus on young men and women aged 18-35 to optimize employment generation. Detailed specifics about the targeted youth population will be elaborated in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), ensuring compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy.</p>
	8. Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources?	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CR4:</b> The proposal references other projects and explains complementarities and synergies (Table 3), particularly noting collaboration with IFAD's FORCE Jeunes project. Please provide more detailed information on the FORCE Jeunes project, including specific points of linkages, and synergies, as well as how overlap will be avoided. Additionally, refer to question 11 for a complete rationale regarding the full cost of adaptation reasoning approach.</p>	<p><b>CR 4:</b> Within the Table 8 related to the complementarities and synergies with ongoing projects, we have provided additional information related to Force Jeunes, including potential points of linkages and synergies and how overlap will be avoided. .</p> <p>The ECO-Youth Project, in the updated version, is targeting professional groups of young men and women, while FORCE Jeunes, which is not yet implemented, aims at providing jobs to individuals. In this sense no overlapping is anticipated. However, both projects will support the CRDEs: FORCE Jeunes plans to finance the construction of buildings and technical infrastructure for the CRDEs. ECO-Youth will support the development of demonstration perimeters with a view to adapting to climate change: setting up drip irrigation systems, introducing solar energy, etc. In terms of training content, ECO-Youth's support will focus on introducing climate change adaptation issues into the various training modules: sustainable land management techniques (water and soil</p>

			conservation techniques), climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable management of fisheries resources, conservation and processing of post-harvest products, etc.).
	9. Does the project / programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons?	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CAR4:</b> Knowledge management is included under the subcomponent C.2. Please specify how the KM related activities will be institutionalized to consistently and systematically track and periodically analyze experiences to gain insights and lessons learned that continuously could feed into and improve the projects implementation.</p>	<p><b>CAR4:</b> The § 101 explains the National Coordination Unit will draw up a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy with an operational implementation plan to capitalize on its experiences and innovations and enable knowledge sharing and scaling up, first internally within the project, then externally. Annual knowledge management and communication plans will be drawn up, budgeted and implemented at national and island level. As part of this strategy, monitoring and evaluation of the activities, products, effects and impacts of the project's interventions will form the basis of the learning and knowledge management process. The project will then seek to create a value chain between the implementation of activities, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, political commitment, institutional support and communication.</p>
	10. Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>An initial consultative process has taken place, where national decision-makers, technical and financial partners as well as local partners and potential beneficiaries were met. The process identified the nature of young people's training needs, as well as the need for some young people to reskill in job-creating sectors such as processing (para 131). Please refer to CAR1 for the adaptation justification.</p> <p>Among actors met were a women's group and the Directorate General for the Environment, it</p>	<p><b>CR 5:</b> The new paragraphs 126 to 132 under section H provide more information on the stakeholder engagement process. The main findings from these consultations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender and women's rights are not well understood, necessitating awareness campaigns on gender-specific issues.</li> <li>• Water access represents the most significant constraint, due to its scarcity, remoteness and disproportionate work burden on women and lack of water tanks and transportation.</li> </ul>

		<p>is however unclear to what extent considerations related to AF's Environment and Social Policy were explored.</p> <p><b>CR5:</b> Given that for instance an initial gender assessment is absent, please clarify how gender and environmental issues were discussed and what was the outcome. Particularly, clarify how the reflections on gender equality that took place during the stakeholder consultations considered context, norms and intersectionality which may be difficult for women. (Please note that this CR is related to CAR2 above.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant agricultural infrastructure and mechanization challenges: including difficult access to agricultural plot due to lack of road tracks and transportation means, limited crop mechanization.</li> <li>• Natural resource management priorities: need for soil conservation interventions with a focus on combating soil erosion and addressing soil fertility issues.</li> <li>• Agricultural and economic development needs enhancing product processing capabilities, including tomato preservation techniques.</li> <li>• Demand for more productive dairy breeds.</li> <li>• Development of market nurseries to promote produce conservation.</li> <li>• Women's group empowerment through technical and financial support to strengthen group autonomy.</li> <li>• Developing technical and organizational capacities.</li> <li>• Literacy identified as crucial for group development and independence.</li> <li>• Institutional development:</li> <li>• Support required to help groups evolve into associations or cooperatives.</li> </ul>
	<p>11. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p><b>CAR5:</b> The proposal does not explain how the project applies the full cost of adaptation reasoning approach. The proposal should clearly illustrate that the project activities are relevant in addressing its adaptation objectives and that, taken solely, without additional funding from other donors (including</p>	<p><b>CAR5:</b> Section II-I, § 133 to §139, provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.</p> <p>A Cost-benefit analysis of the project will be conducted during the full design, based on models of agriculture, fisheries and greenhouse production and representative producers organizations in the three islands</p>



		<p>IFAD's FORCE Jeunes project), they will help achieve these objectives. Even if the project has co-financing, the Adaptation Fund project should be able to deliver its outcomes and outputs regardless of the success of the other project(s). Please refer to <a href="#">The Operational Policies and Guidelines</a> (p.11)</p>	<p>covered by the project, as well as environmental benefits and adaptive capacity. Net additional income will be estimated from the returns on agriculture investments, household operating accounts for production models, and business plans for Cooperatives. Data on these incomes will be extrapolated to the project's focal area. The ultimate goal is to assess the net additional income generated by the project. Benefits will be compared with project costs (with and without project scenarios) using efficiency indicators such as the Net Present Value (NPV), the Internal Rate of Return, the payback period, and the benefit-cost ratio over a 20-year economic lifespan. A sensitivity analysis will be carried out to assess the project's response to variations in costs and benefits, both on a variable-by-variable basis and through scenario analysis (e.g., simultaneous increases/decreases in aggregate benefits/costs and project benefit delays).</p>
	<p>12. Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal demonstrates the alignment with AF result framework (p.33-34)</p> <p><b>CAR6:</b> The project result framework must include at least the core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries.</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> In the column labeled 'Fund Outcome Indicator,' 'Output 6.1' appears to be mistakenly labeled and should be 'Indicator 6.1.' Please check the table for such discrepancies and make the necessary correction/s.</p>	<p><b>CAR6:</b> The core impact indicator "Number of beneficiaries including estimations for direct and indirect beneficiaries" has been added in the result framework.</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> the error related to Indicator 6.1 has been corrected.</p>
	<p>13. Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The Green Financing Mechanism under Component 2 is structured as a shared-cost mechanism, where junior participants</p>	<p><b>CR7:</b> The new Concept Note proposes to no longer support individuals, but instead focus on Producer Organizations, Young Enterprises, or Cooperatives. In this perspective, the concept note no longer</p>



		<p>contribute 10% and senior participants contribute 40% of their business plan costs, either in kind or in cash (para 90).</p> <p><b>CR7:</b> Please elaborate on how low-income youth will not be prevented from accessing the mechanism – i.e. will they be able to afford these contributions? This question is particularly relevant given the adaptation related business activities are often perceived as less profitable compared to other businesses.</p> <p><b>CR8:</b> The adaptation benefits achieved from the project interventions should be sustainable beyond the project's conclusion. Please detail any strategies outlined in the proposal for enabling replication and/or scaling up using other funds or projects, including IFAD's FORCE Jeunes project, after the project ends.</p>	<p>references the establishment of a Green Financing Mechanism. Supporting young beneficiaries—both men and women—through their producer organizations provides a guarantee of sustainability, as risks are shared among all members of the professional entity.</p> <p><b>CR8:</b> The Adaptation Fund project provides an opportunity to strengthen the capacity of Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDEs) to innovate and be at the forefront of agricultural innovations and capacity building for future generations. The CRDEs' mission encompasses a wide range of thematic areas, from responding to producer demands for advisory support to promoting facilitation tools for production, supply, and service procurement. The CRDE network plays a crucial role in centralizing information for managing and disseminating agricultural strategies defined by the Government of the Union of Comoros.</p> <p>Through the CRDEs, this project will pave the way by piloting innovations and demonstrating climate-smart practices and technologies, as well as supporting climate-proofing and greening of agricultural value chains. Furthermore, IFAD and other donor-funded initiatives will offer opportunities to scale tested and proven innovations beyond the ECO-Youth targeted areas.</p>
	<p>14. Does the project / programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?</p>	<p><b>Not Cleared.</b></p> <p>The proposal concludes to be classified as Category B. However, it is mentioned that IFAD's categorization was used.</p>	<p><b>CR9:</b> effectively, AF's risk categorisation has been used while assessing the environmental and social risks and their alignment with the AF's 15 principles. Guidance. In addition, complementary to the AF's 15 principles, and</p>

		<p><b>CR9:</b> Please clarify if AF’s risk categorisation has been used while assessing the environmental and social risks and their alignment with the AF’s 15 principles. Guidance <a href="#">on AF’s 15 principles</a>.</p> <p>The project plans to establish 3,250 business plans across various sectors, yet the specific business activities are not identified at the proposal stage.</p> <p><b>CR10:</b> Please clarify how these undefined business activities are expected to contribute to climate change adaptation.</p> <p>Additionally, if the project involves such Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs), ensure the proposal includes provisions for these USPs to comply with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP). For your reference, USPs in innovation proposals are acceptable when adequately justified. Please refer to <a href="#">guidance on USPs</a>.</p>	<p>according to IFAD SECAP, the project has been classified as category B.</p> <p><b>CR10:</b> in the new version of the concept note the professional entities supported by the project will work in specific stages of the agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries value chains. The targeting strategy aims to: (i) ensure that young people, especially the most vulnerable, are the direct recipients of project support; (ii) identify motivated young people in the agricultural sector to facilitate networking and stimulate job market opportunities; (iii) establish gender equality in Producer Organizations (POs) and rural enterprises through innovative, participative, and interactive methodologies such as the Gender Action Learning System (GALS+); (iv) promote agro-sylvo-pastoral, halieutic, and processing models that are particularly favorable to young women. To this end, the targeting approach will engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including Producer Organizations, rural cooperatives, youth organizations (such as youth for peace groups), women’s associations, associations of young women entrepreneurs, associations of people with disabilities, associations specializing in youth education and integration, and local authorities, prioritizing their representative and inclusive nature.</p> <p>The full design will precisely identify the number of Producer Organisations as well as the activities to be supported in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sector, in line with the climate change adaptation priorities identified in 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication on Climate Change (2023) as a grid for analyzing ECO-</p>
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			YOUTH activities (cf. Table 9). This approach will avoid the existence of unidentified sub projects in ECO-YOUTH project.
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project / programme funding within the cap of the country?	<b>Yes.</b>	
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?	<b>Cleared.</b> IE fee is at 8.5% of the total project budget.	
	3. Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5 per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?	<b>Cleared.</b> EE fee is at 9.5% of the total project budget.  <b>CR11:</b> Please confirm that 'Project/Program Implementation Costs' are equivalent to 'Execution Cost' in the budget table.	<b>CR11:</b> Indeed, the project/ programme implementation cost is equivalent to the execution cost.
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	<b>Yes.</b> The accreditation of IFAD is to expire on December 21, 2025.	
Implementation Arrangements	1. Is there adequate arrangement for project / programme management, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	2. Are there measures for financial and project/programme risk management?	n/a at concept stage	
	3. Are there measures in place for the management of for environmental and social risks, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	4. Is a budget on the Implementing Entity Management Fee use included?	n/a at concept stage	

	5. Is an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs included?	n/a at concept stage	
	6. Is a detailed budget including budget notes included?	n/a at concept stage	
	7. Are arrangements for monitoring and evaluation clearly defined, including budgeted M&E plans and sex-disaggregated data, targets and indicators, in compliance with the Gender Policy of the Fund?	n/a at concept stage	
	8. Does the M&E Framework include a breakdown of how implementing entity IE fees will be utilized in the supervision of the M&E function?	n/a at concept stage	
	9. Does the project/programme's results framework align with the AF's results framework? Does it include at least one core outcome indicator from the Fund's results framework?	n/a at concept stage	
	10. Is a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones included?	n/a at concept stage	



## CONCEPT NOTE PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

### PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Title of Project/Programme:** Enhancing youth entrepreneurship through Climate Resilient Opportunities (ECO-Youth)

**Country:** Comoros

**Thematic Focal Area:**

**Type of Implementing Entity:** Multilateral Implementing Entity

**Implementing Entity:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Executing Entities:** Ministry of the Environment in charge of Tourism

**Amount of Financing Requested:** 10,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Project Formulation Grant Request:** Yes  No

**Amount of Requested financing for PFG:** 150,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed:** Yes  No

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>*

**Stage of Submission:**

This concept has been submitted before

This is the first submission ever of the concept proposal

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: 6/8/2024

**Please note that concept note documents should not exceed 50 pages, including appendices.**

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## Acronyms and abbreviations

<b>AFD</b>	French Development Agency
<b>APD</b>	Detailed design
<b>BAD</b>	African Development Bank
<b>BM</b>	World Bank
<b>CAEP</b>	Chamber of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
<b>CAP</b>	Knowledge, attitudes and practices
<b>CFE</b>	Ecological cold rooms
<b>CNCSP</b>	National Centre for Fisheries Control and Surveillance
<b>Copil</b>	Steering Committee
<b>CRDE</b>	Rural economic development centres
<b>DAO</b>	Tender documents
<b>DCP</b>	Fish aggregators
<b>DGRH</b>	Direction Générale des Ressources Halieutiques
<b>DNE</b>	National Livestock Directorate
<b>DNSAE</b>	National Agricultural and Livestock Strategy Department
<b>DOF</b>	Operational delegation of the Force-Jeunes project
<b>HRD</b>	Regional fisheries resources departments (DRRH)
<b>ENPMM</b>	National School of Fishing and Merchant Marine
<b>ENV</b>	Voluntary national examination
<b>EUIPO</b>	European Union Intellectual Property Office
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>IFAD</b>	International Fund for Agricultural Development
<b>GALS+</b>	Gender action learning system for gender equality and climate change adaptation
<b>GIs</b>	Geographical Indications
<b>GEF</b>	Global Environment Facility
<b>GERME</b>	Manage Your Business Better
<b>HIMO</b>	High labor intensity
<b>INRAPE</b>	National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (INRAPE)
<b>INSEED</b>	French National Institute for Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies
<b>KMF</b>	Comorian franc
<b>MET</b>	Ministry of the Environment in charge of Tourism
<b>MDE</b>	Maison de l'Emploi
<b>NAPA</b>	National Adaptation Programme of Actions
<b>NAP</b>	National Adaptation Plan
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>OP</b>	Producer organization
<b>OPA</b>	Professional agricultural organizations
<b>PC</b>	Concentration pole
<b>PCE</b>	Comoros Emergent 2030 Plan
<b>NTFPS</b>	Non-timber forest products
<b>ESMP</b>	Environmental and social management plan
<b>GDP</b>	Gross domestic product
<b>PIDC</b>	Integrated development and competitiveness project
<b>PM</b>	Market garden perimeter

<b>PNDHD</b>	National program for sustainable human development
<b>PNEEG</b>	National Gender Equity and Equality Policy
<b>NIPA</b>	National Agricultural Investment Plan
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>PREFER</b>	Project to support the productivity and resilience of family farms
<b>PTBA</b>	Annual work plan and budget
<b>RECA- ERA</b>	Capacity-building of Rural Economic Development Centres for Entrepreneurship and the Agricultural resilience in the Comoros
<b>RMP</b>	Mid-term review
<b>RPGH</b>	General population and housing census
<b>SMRO</b>	Operational Results Measurement System
<b>SSE</b>	Monitoring and evaluation system
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>UNAC</b>	National Coordination Unit

## Project/Programme Background and Context:

Provide brief information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve. Outline the economic social, development and environmental context in which the project would operate.

### A. Geography

1. The Comoros is an archipelago in the south-western Indian Ocean, 400 km north-west of Madagascar and 300 km from the African coast in the Mozambique Channel. The Comoros is made up of oceanic islands that appeared around 10 million years ago, and several islets in the Indian Ocean. The morphology and dynamics of the islands vary, corresponding to different stages of evolution: Grande Comore is the most recent, with active volcanism. The other islands of the archipelago are aligned along a south-east/north-west axis. The islands, separated by deep underwater channels, are (from east to west): Anjouan (424 km<sup>2</sup>), Mohéli (290 km<sup>2</sup>) and Grande Comore (1148 km<sup>2</sup>). The total surface area of the three islands that make up the Union of the Comoros is 1862 km<sup>2</sup>.

### B. Governance and economy

2. The Union of the Comoros, with its government seated in Moroni, was politically unstable until the 2001 constitution established a framework uniting the three islands under a Union government responsible for foreign relations, debt, and national coordination, while granting each island its own governor. In 2018, a constitutional revision centralized presidential powers, allowed two consecutive terms, and replaced the constitutional court with a Supreme Court; Comoros also actively participates in regional organizations like the African Union, IOC, and COMESA.

3. The Union of the Comoros is a small, fragile island state, with low growth and high vulnerability to shocks. The country's economic performance is below the average for sub-Saharan Africa. Over the period 2000-2019, growth averaged 2.9% per year. The archipelago's economy remains largely undiversified, undermined by weak infrastructure and a business environment in need of reform. Economic activities are mainly carried out by small-scale players in the informal sector and the diaspora.

4. In 2023, the economy grew by around 3%, with domestic activity buoyed by the resumption of large-scale weddings and the associated increase in diaspora arrivals, mainly from France. However, the increase in per capita income was only 0.4%, due to demographic growth (estimated at 2%). The primary sector benefited from higher agricultural prices and favourable weather conditions. Inflationary pressures have eased, with inflation falling from 12.4% in 2022 to 9.2% in 2023<sup>1</sup>. Economic recovery from the slowdown linked to the COVID pandemic is set to continue, with growth reaching 3.3% in 2024 and 4.2% in 2025-2026, driven mainly by private consumption and public investment.

5. The budget deficit continued to widen in 2023 to around 4.4% of GDP, despite improved domestic revenue mobilization. The deterioration of the fiscal position by 0.4 percentage points of GDP in 2023 is mainly explained by a sharp increase in public spending of 3.5 percentage points of GDP, in particular by the increase in public capital expenditure<sup>2</sup>. The poverty rate is expected to fall slowly to 36.2% in 2026, as the economy continues to grow faster.<sup>3</sup>

### C. Population

6. The Comoros is densely populated, with around 465 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>, and more than half of the population (53%) of 869,595 (2020) is under the age of 20. High population density puts intense pressure on natural resources and the environment. The social fragility of the Comoros is high: the Human Development Index (HDI) of the Comoros is 0.586 in 2022, placing the country 152nd out of 193 countries.

7. The country is ranked among the poorest in the world, with a GDP per capita in 2022 estimated

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.banquemondiale.org/fr/country/comoros/overview>

<sup>2</sup> Ditto

<sup>3</sup> World Bank. Macro Poverty Outlook for Comoros. April 2024

at USD 1,485 and a poverty rate of 45%. The employment rate is only 54% of the population, and over 70% of those in work are poor working people. The Diaspora, estimated at 400,000 people, or around 50% of the population, contributes 25% of the national GDP.

8. The primary sector (agriculture, fisheries, and livestock breeding) accounts for 46% of GDP, compared with 12.4% for the secondary sector. It provides 57% of total jobs, 62.7% of which are held by women, and 90% of operating revenues. The country's geographical location and topography also make Comoros one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, with 54.2% of the population living in high-risk areas.

#### D. Biodiversity and forestry

9. The Union of the Comoros has a rich biodiversity that includes some 2,000 indigenous plants, of which around 33% are considered endemic. Biodiversity is one of the basic elements of the country's economy, even more crucial as it is the raw material for any ecotourism development. Ecologically speaking, the Comoros lie at the centre of the triangle of southern Tanzania, northern Mozambique and northwestern Madagascar, now considered the world's second-largest reef biodiversity triangle after Indonesia<sup>4</sup>.

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10. The Union of the Comoros has a varied but fragile ecosystem that is under serious threat. Environmental degradation is driven by to anthropogenic pressures linked to poverty and unsustainable farming practices. These practices include the misuse of inputs, slash-and-burn agriculture, overexploitation of soils, deforestation and the loss of forest cover due to the conversion of land to agriculture. Population growth directly intensifies the pressure on the natural resources, which the population relies on daily for shelter, food and income-generating activities<sup>5</sup>.

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11. Pressure on natural resources is also evident through poaching of protected species, extraction of coastal materials and environmental pollution stemming from household waste. This pressure is exacerbated by the population's extreme poverty and dependence on natural resources, and the absence of alternatives to traditional production systems<sup>6</sup>. According to the United Nations<sup>7</sup>, practices linked to deforestation have resulted in a sharp decline in forest area, which fell from 31,000 to 3,000 ha between 1950 and 2016, while 15% of plant species are thought to have disappeared over the same period.

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12. Unsustainable fishing practices have also been observed, jeopardizing the sustainability of fisheries resources, and contributing to food insecurity. This primarily affects vulnerable groups, particularly fishermen, who rely on these resources for their livelihoods and subsistence.

#### E. Water resources

13. In Grande Comore, the high permeability of the soils prevents the existence of permanent water courses, despite the island's abundant rainfall. Although numerous watercourses are found in Anjouan and Mohéli, most of them are seasonal or drying up, due to massive and uncontrolled deforestation of the watersheds. Underground aquifers exist on all three islands, however, they have not been extensively studied, except on Grande Comore, where a portion of these aquifers is being exploited<sup>8</sup>.

14. The available water resources would be sufficient to provide a continuous water supply if managed

<sup>4</sup> Ministère de la Production, de l'Énergie, de l'Environnement, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat. Direction Générale de l'Environnement et des Forêts. 2013. PAN/LCD

<sup>5</sup> National Strategy and Action Plan for the Conservation of Biological Diversity

<sup>6</sup> PAN/LCD

<sup>7</sup> United Nations. May 2021. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) Union of the Comoros 2022-2026

<sup>8</sup> PAN/LCD

sustainably<sup>9</sup>. Existing surface water supply systems on the islands of Anjouan and Mohéli possess adequate surplus capacity to meet the needs of the current population and accommodate demographic growth. Furthermore, the island of Grande-Comore has an estimated renewable water supply of 1.2 billion m<sup>3</sup> per year, with 1.1 billion m<sup>3</sup> derived from groundwater. Current exploitation of groundwater, surface water and rainwater collection accounts for 0.5% and 1.9% of the total renewable volume.

#### F. Agriculture and food security

15. The economy is not very diversified and is based on the agricultural sector, which generates 33.5% of GDP. The country's trade balance is negative, with a deficit of 20.7% of GDP. The primary sector (agriculture, fishing and livestock breeding) accounts for 46% of GDP, against 12.4% for the secondary sector, and provides 57% of total employment, 62.7% of which is held by women. It provides around 90% of export earnings from a very limited range of cash crops (vanilla, cloves and ylang-ylang), which are heavily affected by market fluctuations<sup>10</sup>. Despite the importance of agriculture in the Comoros economy, 75% of the country's food requirements are met through imports.

16. The low level of agricultural production can be explained by a number of factors: i) the small useful agricultural area, less than 100,000 hectares; ii) the complete absence of mechanized tillage, limiting the area farmed; iii) the isolation of production areas; iv) difficulties in accessing seeds and other agricultural inputs due to inadequate credit system; v) insufficient irrigation infrastructure for off-season production; vi) the weakness of agricultural extension and applied research systems; vii) the aging farming population<sup>11</sup>.

17. The clearing of forest areas for agriculture has also aggravated soil erosion and degradation and contributed to the depletion of water resources. Extreme events such as Cyclone Kenneth, which hit the archipelago in April 2019, caused agricultural losses estimated at 60% of food crops and 30% of cash crops.

18. Nearly all arable land has been appropriated for use. In Grande Comore and Mohéli, the proportion of cultivated land to potential is 70%. This rises to 80-90% for Anjouan (FAO/BM, 2013). Throughout the entire territory, only 43% of cultivable land is arable and 30% is occupied by permanent crops. Annually, agricultural land area decreases due to factors such as soil degradation and urbanization (FAO, 2007)<sup>12</sup>.

19. The Comoros does not suffer from chronic famine. However, the prevalence of food poverty (proportion of the population unable to meet the minimum caloric intake (< 1800 Kcal/day)) remains very high, affecting 25% of the population. The same applies to the prevalence of food insecurity, which affects 35% of the population<sup>13</sup>.

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20. Vulnerability to natural disasters has a direct impact on food supply risks and availability. The country has suffered prolonged droughts (80% dry years, 20% wet years, from 1991 to 2000), an overall decrease in rainfall over the last few decades, a rise in average annual temperatures, and a shift in seasons.

21. International crises and conflicts have had a direct impact on food security in the Union of the Comoros, particularly before the Russian-Ukrainian crisis. Prior to this event 22.4% of the population was severely food insecure, and 22% moderately so (INSEED, 2020). The situation has since been

<sup>9</sup> Commissariat Général au Plan. 2020. Rapport national volontaire de l'Union des Comores au Forum politique de Haut-niveau sur le développement durable, édition 2020.

<sup>10</sup> COMPACT 2023-2028

<sup>11</sup> COMPACT 2023-2028

<sup>12</sup> PAN/LCD

<sup>13</sup> Commissariat Général au Plan. 2020. Voluntary national report of the Union of the Comoros to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, 2020 edition.

exacerbated by the ongoing conflict, in 2022, it was reported that around 33% of Comorians were in absolute food poverty, and around 31% of children were stunted and 25% underweight<sup>14</sup>.

**G. Historical climate trends and projections**

22. The country has a humid tropical climate influenced by the sea, with two main seasons:

- A warm and humid southern summer season, from mid-November to mid-April, with an average temperature of around 27°C at low altitudes, with highs between 33 and 35°C and lows around 21° and 24°C;
- A cool, dry southern winter season from mid-June to mid-October, with an average temperature of 23°C at low altitudes and maximums between 27 and 29°C.

23. The Comoros is also subject to north to north-westerly monsoon winds known as "kashkazi", which are variable and weak, but stronger in January and February (the hottest months). Comoros ranks 97th on the global climate risk index for 2021. The frequency of extreme climatic and meteorological events such as tropical storms, floods, heat waves and droughts, landslides, volcanic eruptions and droughts has increased slightly and are the main hazards impacting the Union of the Comoros, causing both human and material damage. These hazards are likely to seriously compromise the development efforts undertaken by the country in recent years and accentuate the vulnerability of certain ecosystems and groups of already fragile populations.

24. The graph below shows average monthly minimum, mean and maximum temperatures over the period 1991-2022, as well as average monthly precipitation over the same period<sup>15</sup>.

Figure 8. Monthly climatology of mean minimum surface air temperature, mean maximum surface air temperature and precipitation 1991-2022; Comoros.



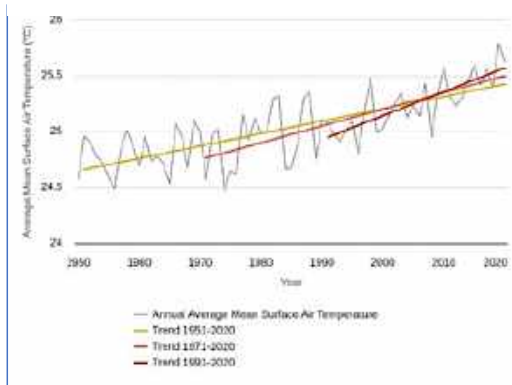
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<sup>14</sup> Ditto

<sup>15</sup> <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/comoros>

25. **Temperatures.** The average temperature varies between 21.62°C and 25.26°C. The hottest months are June, with an average temperature of 25.26°C, July with an average temperature of 25.19°C, and August with an average temperature of 25.12°C.

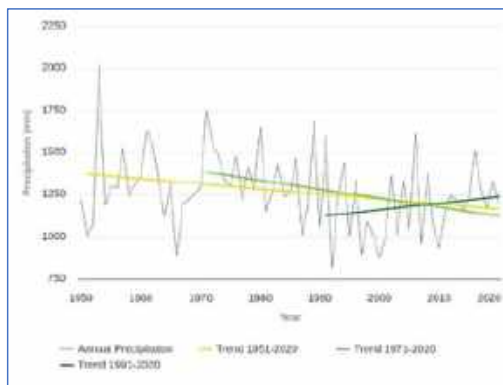
Figure 9 Trends in mean surface air temperature with significance of trend per decade 1951-2020; Comoros



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26. Historical data for the period 1951-2020 show an upward trend in mean temperature.
27. As shown in Figure 2, the trend for the period 1951-2020 is an increase of 0.11°C per decade. The trend for the 1970-2020 period is an increase of 0.16°C per decade, while the trend for the 1991-2020 period is an increase of 0.22 per decade. We can thus see that the temperature increase trend is stronger, rising from 0.11°C to 0.22°C.
28. Precipitation. The wettest months are January, February and March, with monthly averages of 313mm (January), 269mm (February) and 264mm (March). September, October and November are the driest months, with average rainfall of 64 mm, 90 mm and 98 mm respectively.
29. As Figure 3 shows, precipitation is tending to fall. While over the period 1951-2020, the downward

Figure 10 Annual rainfall trends with trend significance by decade 1951-2020 Comoros



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trend is -25.28mm per decade, it is -51.22mm per decade for the period 1971-2020, but +77mm per decade for the period 1991-2020. However, the latter trend would not be significant (77% probability vs. 98% for the other trends).

30. The annual trend in the maximum number of consecutive wet days for the period 1951-2020 shows a downward trend, as shown in Figure 3, with -2.84 consecutive wet days per decade.

31. The maximum number of consecutive dry days for the period 1951-2020 (Figure 5) confirms the above trend in that this number would increase, with a very high probability, by around 1.19 days per decade.

Figure 11 Annual trends in maximum number of consecutive wet days with significance of trends by decade 1951-2020; Comoros

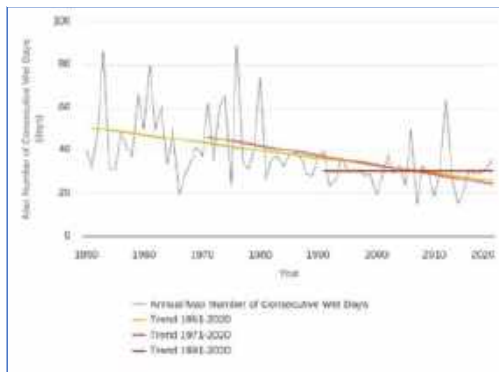
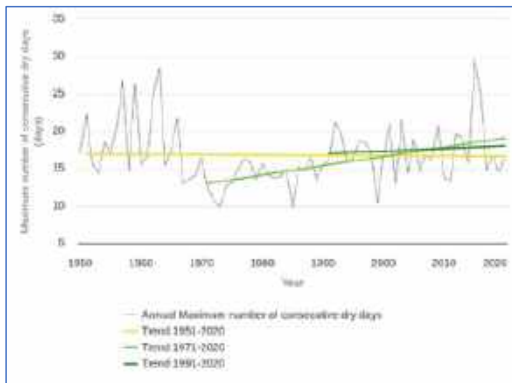


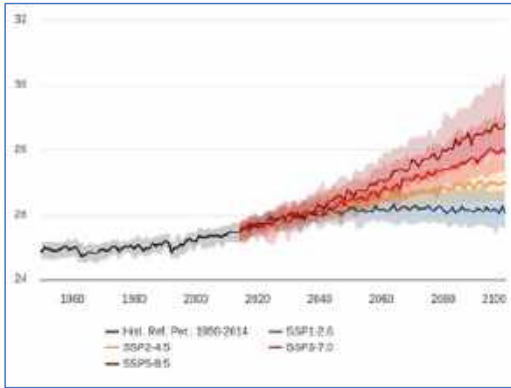
Figure 5 Annual trends in the maximum number of consecutive dry days, with significance of trends by decade 1951-2020; Comoros



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**Climate projections**

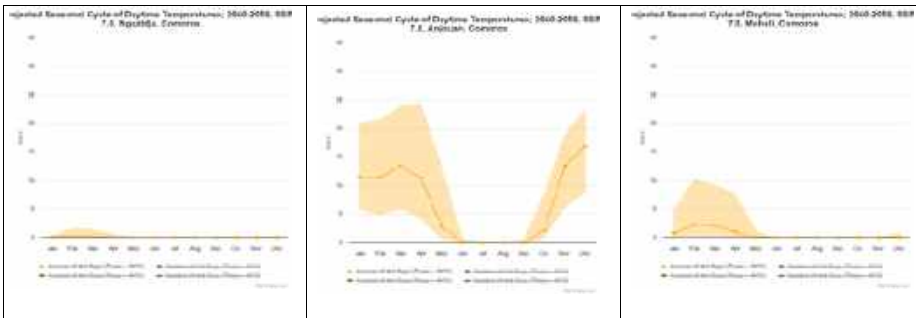
Figure 6 Projected mean surface air temperature (ref: period 1994-2014) Multi-model ensemble



32. **Temperatures.** Average temperature projections vary from model to model but are always on the rise. Thus, according to the SSP3 7.0 model, the average temperature should increase by one degree in 2050, compared with the reference year 2014. Climate projections obtained using other global climate models show that mean annual temperature is set to rise by 0.8 (RCP 2.6) to 2.1°C (RCP 8.5) by 2060, and by 1.2 (RCP 2.6) to 3.6°C (RCP 8.5) by 2090.<sup>16</sup>

33. **The extreme heat conditions.** The season cycle allows to understand when in the year specific threshold conditions are more likely to be surpassed. The duration of the “heat season” is likely to increase in future decades. The below projected seasonal cycle of daytime temperatures, for the 2040-2059 period, highlights the differentiated projections between the three islands, Anjouan being the most affected by the successive months with high counts of heat.

Figure 12: Projected Seasonal Cycle of Daytime Temperatures: 2040-2059, SSP 7.0, Comoros



34. **Precipitation.** Projections for average annual precipitation show a wide range of changes,

<sup>16</sup> Union des Comores, Ministère de la Production, de l'Environnement, de l'Energie, de l'Industrie et de l'Artisanat. Contributions Déterminées au niveau National de l'Union des Comores (CDN actualisée). Synthesis report, 2021-2030

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covering both negative and positive changes. Seasonal projections foresee a reduction in precipitation during April to December to November and an increase during the rainy season, particularly the months of January to March. According to the SSP3 7.0 scenario, average annual precipitation is set to increase by 1% in 2050. According to the IPCC, through the projections of the Atmosphere-Ocean General Circulation Model (AOGCM), climate change scenarios for the small islands of the Indian Ocean, for the period 2040-2069, indicate:

- An increase in average annual precipitation of 3.1% (+ or - 0.45%) However, the decline varies between -2.6% and -1.8% during dry periods (June-August)

#### H. Impacts of climate change

35. The impacts of climate change on agriculture, livestock and water resources have been identified in the National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA) and are summarized in the table below.

Table 1: Impact of climate change

Sector	Impact
<b>Agricultural resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delayed fruit ripening due to prolonged drought and high <a href="#">temperatures</a>.</li> <li>- The reproduction cycle of crop pests coincides with the harvesting period and leads to crop destruction.</li> <li>- Appearance of new diseases such as the coconut whitefly (<i>Aleurotrachelus atratus</i>) leading to a drop in production and income;</li> <li>- Whitefly also deposits fumagin on associated crops (vanilla, banana, etc.), compromising photosynthesis.</li> <li>- Development of cercosporiosis (<i>cercospora fijiensis</i>) on banana, resulting in major crop losses, reduced income and increased food insecurity.</li> <li>- Land degradation accelerated by climate variability</li> <li>- Reduced grazing due to grass desiccation caused by prolonged drought;</li> <li>- Fallow land disappears, limiting forage production capacity.</li> <li>- Diminishing water resources reducing watering possibilities;</li> <li>- Under-nourishment of livestock and high susceptibility to parasitic attacks and epidemics</li> </ul>
<b>Fishing resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Low level of recovery of demersal species,</li> <li>- Steady decline in catch size.</li> <li>- Abnormal rise in ocean temperatures leading to high coral mortality.</li> <li>- Coastal erosion and accelerated decline in inshore fishing.</li> <li>- Substantial post-harvest losses due to high temperatures, lack of product preservation facilities and limited outings during cyclones and heavy rains.</li> <li>- The result is a chronic shortage of fish on the market.</li> </ul>
<b>Water resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate variability has a negative influence on the quantity and quality of water resources through reduced rainfall.</li> <li>- Variations in rainfall, seasonal shifts and prolonged droughts lead to early water shortages, and worsen hygiene conditions.</li> <li>- High temperatures increase actual evapotranspiration, reducing the rate of groundwater recharge.</li> <li>- In Grande-Comore, rising sea levels increase the salinity of the water table.</li> <li>- Anjouan and Mohéli are fed mainly by river water: the decline in rainfall is reducing the hydrographic network.</li> <li>- The quality of river water is altered by the products of erosion, discharges of faecal matter, household waste and others.</li> </ul>

36. Moreover, sea level is expected to rise by 4 mm per year over the next fifty years, corresponding to a potential average rise of 20 cm by 2050, twice as much as the rise observed over the last hundred years (20 to 25 cm)<sup>17</sup>.

**I. Vulnerabilities in the national strategy to combat climate change**

37. Climate risks are numerous, and their impact can vary from one island to another. The table below shows the vulnerability of each island to climatic risks.

Table 2: Risks and vulnerability of the islands

<b>Island</b> <b>Risk</b>	<b>Grande Comore</b>	<b>Anjouan</b>	<b>Mohéli</b>
<b>Sea level rise</b>	Some coastal areas, especially in the eastern part of the island	Coastal areas (particularly the peninsula and eastern part of the island)	Coastal areas, especially eastern parts of the island
<b>Tropical cyclones</b>	No major risk for the Union of the Comoros as protected by Madagascar, but winds and storms	South-east of the island opposite Mayotte	No major risk for the Union of the Comoros, protected by Madagascar, but winds and storms all over the island.
<b>Flooding</b>	Southwest	<i>Presqu'île</i> : Bimbini, Vassi, Nord: Hajoho, and Centre Est: Domoni West coast: Pomoni and Moya	Coastal areas mainly, northeast (Fomboni), northwest Miringoni, Ouallah
<b>Landslide</b>	Southwest and southeast flanks of the Karthala massif	Southwest (Pagé to Maraharé; Moya)	North
<b>Ocean upwelling</b>	North and North-East; Central and South	South and North	Coastal zones
<b>Coastal erosion</b>	Southeast (Foumbouni) and Northwest	Southwest (Pagé to Pomoni) and Northwest (Domoni, Ouani- and central east coast)	Coastal areas, especially coastal - East (Fomboni, Djoiézi), and Northwest, Miringoni
<b>Drought</b>	Important West-central coastline and northern part of the island	North part	North part
<b>Salinization of soils and drinking water supplies</b>	Coastal zones	Southern coastal areas	Coastal zones
<b>Soil erosion</b>	Whole island	Whole island (especially west, east and south)	Whole island (especially in watersheds)
<b>Deforestation</b>	Important in all forested areas from the north to the south of the island, especially in the eastern part.	Forested areas, eastern part of the island	Forested areas all over the island

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**ECO-YOUTH contribution to the 2020 NDC's planned adaptation measures**

38. ECO-YOUTH will contribute directly to some of the following priority adaptation measures identified by CDN in 2020:

- Agricultural and livestock sectors: ECO-YOUTH will contribute to developing a climate-smart.

<sup>17</sup> Updated NDC, 2021.

resilient agricultural policy, through the institutional support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Livestock and Food (MET) for the integration of climate change adaptation into the relevant sectoral policies and strategies (ECO-Youth Component C, Outcome C.1: Support for policy instruments and the institutional framework. This action will be supported, in the field, by the promotion of Green business partnerships to promote the **Enhanced Climate Adaptation in Agriculture and Fisheries** (Component B, Outcome 2.1). With regard to the development of agro-pastoral irrigation, ECO-YOUTH, under Component A, will support the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors;

39. **Biodiversity and forests sectors:** regarding the extension of reforested area, ECO-YOUTH will encourage agroforestry practices and better water management (Component B, Outcome B1);

- **Fishing and coastal and marine ecosystems,** the NDC foresees raising awareness and protecting fishermen from climatic hazards. ECO-YOUTH will contribute to this adaptation action through awareness-raising activities to support the creation of climate-resistant infrastructure and enable young entrepreneurs in the fishing industry to empower themselves. (Component A, Output A.2.1);
- **Water resources:** thanks to the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors (Component A, Output A.2.1) ECO-YOUTH responds to the NDC actions for population access to an improved water source. In the same context, ECO-YOUTH takes into account NDC's need to disseminate and adopt the principle of integrated water resource management, through CRDE's capacity-building activities in sustainable resource management (Component A, Result A.1 Strengthen and diversify the training offer);
- **Integration and awareness raising:** as shown above NDC's planned actions on Capacity building at all levels to define and implement CC adaptation measures find an echo in EO-YOUTH through the activities envisaged under Component A, Outcome A.1 Strengthening and diversifying the training offer, as well as under Outcome A.2. Development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives.

#### **J. Initial gender assessment**

40. A preliminary gender assessment was carried out during the preparation of this concept note and the findings of the assessment are being integrated into the project activities and will be reinforced by the full gender assessment to be carried out at the full project proposal stage.

41. **Gender equality.** The increase in girls' schooling has not significantly impacted the women's illiteracy rate, which remained unchanged (Grande Comore: 23.7%; Anjouan: 47.7%; Mohéli: 42.6%). This affects women's entrepreneurial momentum, with their access to credit being lower and at a later age (40 years) compared to men (20 years), despite the presence of appropriate financial institutions. These various factors, combined with women's status, jeopardize their employment, especially in rural areas. This situation is amplified by shocks related to climate change and health crises such as COVID-19. Survival practices exacerbate deforestation and reduce cultivable surfaces, resulting in underemployment, under-production, and an increasingly weak agricultural growth rate. All of this disproportionately affects women and girls in vulnerable households, in addition to food insecurity and its resulting effects (African Development Bank<sup>18</sup>, 2023). 20.7% of women aged 20–24 years old were married or in a union before age 18. However, work still needs to be done in the Comoros to achieve gender equality. The adolescent birth rate is 74.4 per 1,000 women aged 15-19 as of 2017, up from 70.27 per 1,000 in 2011. As of February 2024, only 16.7% of seats in parliament were held by women. In 2018, 8.2% of women aged 15-49 years

<sup>18</sup> BAD, 2023, Union des Comores, Profil de genre, genre, autonomisation des femmes et amélioration des conditions de vie, BAD.

reported that they had been subject to physical and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months (World bank, 2024)<sup>19</sup>

42. **Gender, employment and economic activities.** In the Comoros, the labour force participation rate among females is 33.1% and among males is 55.4% for 2023 in the public and semi-public sector, generally in subordinate positions. Only 4.8% of working women are employers. Although women account for around half of the total population (49.6%), they are still under-represented at all levels, except in the agricultural sector, where they hold 63% of jobs in food production, market gardening and poultry farming. They do very little in marketing, unlike in the fishing industry, where they are more involved in selling fish. But these areas of activity are still informal, and informal and insecure employment is more common among women. For example, more women (56.1%) than men (47.5%) are self-employed, and 47% of the unemployed in Comoros are women.

43. **Land ownership.** Matrilineal filiation allows Comorian women, generally the eldest, to inherit land and houses (manyahuli), which form an undivided patrimony handed down from mother to eldest daughter. But actual use and control remain in the hands of men: husbands, brothers, maternal uncles. Women inherit land and productive assets from their fathers and mothers, but the management of these assets involves the man as head of the family. In 2017, 32% of women owned land, compared with 58% of men. This can be explained by the institution of the "grand marriage" custom, which sees "accomplished men" (mdrou mdzima) become official decision-makers in the city, while women are confirmed in their position as head of the household. In this context, customs hinder rural women's use of their land to access credit or capital.

44. **Gender, environment and climate change.** The impacts of climate change (land and forest degradation, erosion, water stress, natural disasters) are leading to a scarcity of resources, making it more difficult for women, whose livelihoods in rural areas depend largely on natural resources (water, forest products, agriculture), to carry out their activities. Women's ability to adapt to climate change is undermined by their lack of access to the economic and productive resources outlined above. The NDC recognizes the importance of gender mainstreaming in climate change adaptation policies, and notes that the National Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan has taken gender into account in the education and protection sectors. The NDC is committed to improving the participation of women and all other vulnerable groups in the planning and decision-making process, as well as in capacity-building in terms of education, training and access to technologies for adapting to climate change.

45. **Legal framework.** The country has ratified the main international instruments on women, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1994) and the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women (2004). The Union of the Comoros has ratified them without any reservations, undertaking to apply them as soon as they have been ratified. The Union of the Comoros joined the Beijing Platform in 1995, the African Union's Vision 2063 and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reflecting the political will of its leaders to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

46. At national level, the 2018 Constitution confirms and guarantees women's rights, equal remuneration for equal work and the right of access to local and national political bodies. The Family Code sets 18 years as the minimum legal age for marriage and prohibits forced marriages. The Labour Code prohibits gender-based discrimination in recruitment and all other decisions relating to working conditions. The Labour Code protects pregnant workers and combats harassment, shifting the burden of proof to the alleged perpetrator. The law on the general status of civil servants condemns all forms of discrimination. The Electoral Code provides for the same right to vote and stand for election for both genders, and the law on the organisation of municipal elections requires both genders to be equally represented on municipal lists.

47. **Effectiveness of law enforcement.** The analysis of the texts revealed, on the one hand, inconsistencies between the texts adopted and, on the other hand, a lack of conformity of these texts with international instruments. For example, the Family Code grants men the right to polygamy, the moral and material leadership of the family, and the right of repudiation, while a woman seeking an out-of-court divorce must pay her husband compensation (Khol). The Nationality Code allows only men to transmit

<sup>19</sup> World Bank, 2024, Comoros, Gender Portal. <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/comoros>

their nationality to their foreign wives. These provisions contradict the principle of equality between men and women as stated in the Constitution. The reason for these inconsistencies lies in the fact that, due to the specific history of the Comoros, modern law coexists with customary law and Muslim law. These various sources of Comorian law are not always consistent with each other and may come into conflict. For example, even though modern law recognises equality, it conflicts with other legal sources (such as customary law) and fails to assert itself. Religion and tradition sometimes set themselves up as the reference standard. This situation delays the elimination of certain gender inequalities and makes it difficult to implement policies aimed at gender equity and equality.

48. **Policy framework.** The Union of the Comoros has adopted the 2017 National Gender Equity and Equality Policy (PNEEG2), which consolidates the achievements of the previous policy (PNEEG 2007). The policy has the following objectives: (i) to remove economic and social obstacles so as to promote the participation of the entire population, regardless of gender, in economic development initiatives; (ii) to enhance the value of women's activities, which contribute to wealth creation; (iii) to increase opportunities so as to eliminate gender disparities and improve their capabilities; (iv) to effectively coordinate the various institutions with a view to training and informing. However, the analysis of the gender equality and equity situation carried out in 2017 as part of the update of the 2007 National Gender Equity and Equality Policy reveals that the values, practices and modes of social organisation severely limit the effects of the actions undertaken to reduce gender disparities and inequalities in Comoros. The National Gender Policy recognizes the obstacles to full equality of rights between men and women due to the coexistence of three types of law: positive law, Muslim law and tradition. In this context, the PNEEG2 defined 5 new priorities: i) strengthening the legal and institutional framework for promoting gender equality, ii) integrating this dimension into public policies, iii) empowering women by promoting their activities and supporting entrepreneurship, iv) involving women in decision-making bodies through political and legislative measures, and v) reducing gender-based violence. These priorities have been taken up by the various economic and social development policy frameworks of the Union of the Comoros, including in particular the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development (SCA2D) 2018-2021 (O.S.14. Promoting gender equity and equality, included in Axis 3: Consolidation of governance and promotion of state based on the rule of law), the Plan Comores Emergent 2020 - 2030, one of the specific objectives of which is to promote the health of young people and adolescents and combat all forms of gender-based violence, exploitation and exclusion; and the Interim Development Plan 2020 - 2024 which, in terms of gender equality, sets the objective of seeing the gender equality index increase over the decade 2020-2030, with this index standing at 0.25 in 2019. It should be noted that the gender index in Africa has been limited to three dimensions: the economic dimension, the social dimension, and the dimension of empowerment and representation (both political and institutional).

49. To address multiple challenges, during the project proposal design phase, the team will conduct a comprehensive gender analysis examining the roles, responsibilities, needs, challenges, barriers, and opportunities for women within the project's economic, social, political, and cultural contexts. The analysis will also explore social norms and attitudes related to gender-based violence.

50. Based on the gap analysis, the team will develop a Gender Action Plan aligned with gender inclusion policies of both the Adaptation Fund and IFAD. In terms of project targeting, rural women will constitute 50% of the project's beneficiaries, and value chains will be selected based on their potential to support women's and youth livelihoods while enhancing resilience to climate change.

**K. Intervention area and target groups**

51. **Area of intervention.** With a national scope, ECO- Youth will operate in 66 poor or vulnerable villages or localities on the three islands: 22 on Anjouan, 17 on Mohéli and 27 on Ngazidja (Grande Comore). This targeting represents 20% of the country's localities and is delineated within eight poles of concentration (PCs): two on Grande Comore and three on each of the islands of Anjouan and Mohéli. These PCs are territorially circumscribed within the zone of influence of the Rural Economic Development Centres. (CRDE), as shown in the table below.

Table 3: Distribution of clusters

Concentration hub	No. of locations	Proportion
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<b>Grande Comore</b>		
1 Mbadjini Sud zone - Simboussa CRDE	10	
2 Bambao zone (Cent-e) - Sereheni CRDE	17	
<i>Sub-total Gde Comore and proportion island</i>	27	13%
<b>Anjouan</b>		
3. Nyumakele High and Intermediate Zone - M'rèmani CRDE	11	
4. Zone Sma - Boungweni CRDE	7	
5. Plateau Koni and Mjilimé zone - Tsembehou CRDE and Bambao Mtsanga CRDE	4	
<i>Subtotal Anjouan and proportion island</i>	22	24%
<b>Mohéli</b>		
Zone Djando - CRDE de Mibani	6	
Zone Mledjele - CRDE de Wallah	6	
Zone Centre de Fomboni - CRDE de Fomboni	5	
<i>Sous-Total Mohéli et proportion île</i>	17	74%
<b>Total Force-Jeunes et proportion pays</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>20,4%</b>

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52. Target group. The project's beneficiaries are the rural poor aged between 18 and 35 (33.7% of the population), whose integration in the production and wealth creation processes is limited or non-existent. These young men and women may have no vocational training but be actively engaged in agro-sylvo-pastoral, fishing and other production activities on family farms or within Producer Organizations (POs), or they may have a minimum level of training but be unemployed.

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53. In all, ECO-Youth will directly target around 4950 young people from around 4,000 rural households with low incomes or vulnerable to poverty. Within these households, it will indirectly impact more than 20,000 people (the average family size is around 5 people). More precisely, ECO-Youth will work with or will support the creation of rural Professional Organisations (POs) of about 25 young people each, organised, for example, as cooperatives or associations. In this sense, if the direct beneficiaries are the young men and women, they will have access to ECO-Youth support through their respective rural organizations, except the first steps of ECO-Youth implementation, consisting in awareness raising activities among the villages in view of orienting young to be trained (under Component1, Outcome 1.1).

54. The Table 4 below presents the demographic data of the 66 villages that ECO-Youth will target in the three Islands. ECO-Youth plans to target, or create 3 POs per village, of 25 Young people each. Depending on the number of villages per island, ECO-Youth anticipates reaching 1,450 young people in Anjouan (29%), 2,675 in Grande Comore (53.5%) and 875 in Moheli (17.5%). This preliminary breakdown will be refined during the design phase, the project.

Table 4: ECO-YOUTH Demographic Data

Ile	Zones	Villages	Male	Female	Total population	Young (18 ans et plus : ratio 56,6%)	Number of young people targeted by the project (3 groups of 25 young people per village (i.e. 3 rural youth businesses)
<b>GRANDE</b>	Mbadjini Sud zone - Simboussa CRDE	Nkourani, Famare, Dzoidjou, Tsinimoipanga, Simboussa, Nkouranimkanga, Ngouma	11272	11340	22612	12789	750

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<b>COMORE</b>	(10 villages)	Milima, Inani, Darissalama, Bandamadji, Lakouboini					
	Bambao zone (Centre) - Sereheni CRDE (7 villages)	Mdé Bambao, Vouvouni, Itoni, Mvouni, Moindzaboini	59798	57759	117557	66537	525
<b>TOTAL VILLAGES IN GRANDE COMORES: 17 VILLAGES</b>							
<b>ANJOUAN</b>	Nyumakele High and Intermediate Zone - M'remani CRDE (13 villages)	Addaoueni, Banda Kouni, Banda Ladjandza, Jandza, Dagi, Kangani, Komoni, Kiyo, Magnassini, M'Remani, Mridjou, Ongojou, Trindrini	32531	33837	66367	37563	975
	Zone Sima - Boungweni CRDE (9 villages)	Bimbini, Boungoueni, Hassimpao, Kavani, Marahare, Milembeni, Mironгани, Mromouhouli, Sima	17916	17807	35723	10433	675
	Plateau Koni and Mjilimé zone - Tsembehou CRDE and Bambao Mtsanga CRDE (5 villages)	Koni jojo, Koni Ngani, Dindri, Limbi, Mjimilime	32638	32993	65630	37146	375
<b>TOTAL VILLAGES IN ANJOUAN: 27 VILLAGES</b>							
<b>MOHELI</b>	Zone Djando - CRDE de Mibani (8 villages)	Wanani, Siry-Ziroudani, Sanbia, Hamavouna, Itsamia, Hagnamoida, Nkangani, Milabanda	4302	4217	8519	4821	600
	Zone Mledjele - CRDE de Wallah (8 villages)	Nioumachi, Ndreameani, Wallah1, Wallah2, Ndrondroni, Miringoni, Barakani, Hamba	7099	6650	13749	7781	600
	Zone Centre de Fomboni - CRDE de Fomboni (6 villages)	Fomboni, Boingoma, Mbatse/Hamba, Hoani, Mdjoiezi/Bandarsalam, Domoni	15028	13934	28962	16392	450
<b>TOTAL VILLAGES IN MOHELI: 22 VILLAGES</b>							
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF VILLAGES : 66 VILLAGES</b>							
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>359 119</b>	<b>193 462</b>	<b>4950</b>

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55. In line with the project's gender focus, women will account for 50% of the young people directly benefiting.

56. The targeting approach is based on the principle of social inclusion, in line with national standards favouring the integration of people with disabilities (PWD) into economic activities. This category will represent 1.5% of young people, or around 75 individuals. The inclusion approach will be promoted through the innovative Gender Action Learning System for Gender equality and climate change adaptation (GALS+), which promotes empowerment, adaptive capacities, climate resilience, nutrition and gender equity in associations, cooperatives, and communities. It will be integrated into training modules at training, learning and incubation centres.

57. The quota system will be used to ensure that young women are targeted. Awareness-raising and communication sessions specifically for young women will be organised to ensure strong interest on their part.

58. The targeting strategy aims to: (i) ensure that young people, and especially the most vulnerable, are the recipients of project support; (ii) identify motivated young people in the agricultural sector to facilitate networking and job market stimulation; (iii) establish gender equality in POs and rural enterprises, through the use of innovative, participative and interactive methodologies such as GALS+; (iv) promote agro-sylvo-pastoral and halieutic and processing models favourable to young women. To this end, the targeting approach will involve in each PC: POs, rural cooperatives, youth organizations (youth for peace; women's associations, associations of young women entrepreneurs, etc.), associations of disabled people, associations specializing in the education and integration of young people and local authorities, taking into account their representative and inclusive nature.

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59. **Theory of change.** The diagram below summarizes the project theory of change, illustrating overall project logic, Objective, components, outcomes, outputs, the assumptions necessary for its success, and the barriers the project aims to address and challenges.

<b>Project objective</b> Improve access to decent jobs for young people through the development of entrepreneurship integrating adaptation to climate change into the economic enhancement of agricultural, livestock and fisheries food							
<b>Component A.</b> Capacity building and green entrepreneurial and employment initiatives			<b>Component B.</b> Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities			<b>Component C.</b> Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas	
<b>Outcome A.1</b> Strengthening, greening and diversifying the training offer.	<b>Outcome A.2.</b> Development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives		<b>Outcome B.1</b> Enhanced Climate Adaptation in Agriculture and Fisheries		<b>Outcome B.2</b> Supporting access to the market	<b>Outcome C.1</b> Support for policy instruments and the institutional framework	<b>Outcome C.2.</b> Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management
<b>Outputs</b> 1. Three Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) recalibrated regarding adaptation to climate change. 2. Climate resilient assets secured	<b>Outputs</b> 1. Capacity-building for young people in sustainable agriculture and fisheries achieved. 2. Young rural producer organizations set-up		<b>Outputs</b> 1. Green and climate resilient technologies and Climate smart agricultural practices promoted 2. Processing of agricultural and fisheries products enhanced		<b>Outputs</b> 1. Product marketing facilitation 2. Performance tracking and feed back	<b>Outputs</b> 1. Relevant sectoral policies and strategies supported 2. Key institutions supporting climate-adapted businesses for rural youth are strengthened	<b>Outputs</b> 1. A M&E strategy put in place 2. Knowledge products created and disseminated
<b>Assumption 1</b> Good governance		<b>Assumption 2</b> No major climate natural disasters or epidemics		<b>Assumption 3</b> Local communities understand the importance of young involvement in climate resilient agricultural development		<b>Assumption 4</b> Targeted young men and women are aware of the social and economic opportunities offered by the climate smart agriculture	
<b>Barrier 1</b> Absence of alternatives to traditional production systems	<b>Barrier 2</b> Low level of agricultural production and productivity	<b>Barrier 3</b> Complete absence of mechanized tillage.	<b>Barrier 4</b> Limited area farmed	<b>Barrier 5</b> Low income	<b>Barrier 6</b> Low capacities and inadequate policies	<b>Barrier 7</b> Lack of gender responsive solutions for addressing adaptation needs to climate change	<b>Barrier 8</b> Weak governance structures for climate change
<b>Problem statement</b> Population's extreme poverty, depending on natural resources; Intense human pressure on natural resources and the environment. Land degradation accelerated by climate variability; Unsustainable fishing practices; Aging farming population and high rate of young unemployment.							

**Project/Program Objectives:**

List the main objectives of the project/programme.

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60. Objective. The overall objective of ECO-Youth is to contribute to poverty reduction and the strengthening of rural communities' resilience and adaptation to climate change.

61. The development objective is to improve access to decent jobs for young people through the development of entrepreneurship integrating adaptation to climate change into the economic enhancement of agricultural, livestock and fisheries food systems.

## Project/Program Components and Financing:

Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, activities, expected concrete outputs, and the corresponding budgets. If necessary, please refer to the attached instructions for a detailed description of each term.

For the case of a programme, individual components are likely to refer to specific sub-sets of stakeholders, regions and/or sectors that can be addressed through a set of well-defined interventions / projects.

Table 5: Project components and sub-components

Project/Program Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
Component A. Capacity building and green entrepreneurial and employment initiatives	Output A.1.1 Three Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) recalibrated <a href="#">regarding adaptation to climate change</a>	A.1 Strengthening, <a href="#">greening</a> and diversifying the training offer	<del>3,000,000</del>
	Output A.1.2 <a href="#">Climate resilient assets secured</a>		Deleted: 1,730,000
	Output A.2.1 <a href="#">Capacity-building for young people in sustainable agriculture and fisheries achieved</a>	A.2. Development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives	990,000
	Output A.2.2 <a href="#">Young rural producer organisations set-up</a>		Deleted: Technical platforms for training, apprenticeship and incubation are strengthened Deleted: 2,990,000
Component B. Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities	Output B.1.1 <a href="#">Green and climate resilient technologies and Climate smart agricultural practices promoted</a>	B .1 <a href="#">Enhanced Climate Adaptation in Agriculture and Fisheries</a>	2,375,000
	Output B.1.2 <a href="#">Processing of agricultural and fisheries products enhanced</a>		Deleted: Climate-resilient infrastructures empowering young agro-pastoral and fisheries entrepreneurs Deleted: Young people trained in sustainable rural trades for income generation Deleted: 345,000
	Output B.2.1 <a href="#">Product marketing facilitation</a>	B.2 <a href="#">Supporting access to the market</a>	1,400,000
	Output B.2.2 <a href="#">Performance tracking and feed back</a>		Deleted: Easier integration of young people into employment and business partnerships Deleted: Partnership with the private sector Deleted: Bringing partner companies up to environmental standards
			Deleted: 1 2,700,000
Component C. <a href="#">Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas</a>	Output C.1.1 Relevant sectoral policies and strategies supported	C.1 Support for policy instruments and the institutional framework	120,000
	Output C1.2 <a href="#">Key institutions supporting climate-adapted businesses for rural youth are strengthened</a>		Deleted: A green financing mechanism for young agripreneurs' business plans is set up Deleted: Financing young agripreneurs Deleted: 2
	Output C 2.1 A M&E strategy put in place	C.2. Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management	457,978
	Output C 2.2 Knowledge products created and disseminated		Deleted: Climate risk integrated into financing mechanisms for young agripreneurs Deleted: Key institutions supporting rural youth businesses strengthened Deleted: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment

<b>Total cost of components</b>	<b>8,342, 978</b>
<b>Project/program implementation costs</b>	<b>873,612</b>
<b>Total project / program cost</b>	<b>9,216,590</b>
<b>Project/program cycle management fees invoiced by implementing entity</b>	<b>783,410</b>
<b>Amount of funding requested</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>

**Projected Calendar:**

*Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme*

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Expected Dates</b>
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	January 2026
Mid-term Review (if planned)	June 2029
Project/Program Closing	January 2032
Terminal Evaluation	June 2032

## PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

**A. Describe the project/programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.**

62. ECO-Youth include the following components and sub-components:

### Component A. Capacity building and green entrepreneurial and employment initiatives

63. Agricultural entrepreneurship will improve employment for young people and women in the Comoros, and ensure their participation in wealth creation at all stages of the value chain for climate-smart agriculture. To achieve this, it is essential, on one hand, to strengthen the infrastructure and equipment of national institutions such as the Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE), and the National School of Fishing and Merchant Marine (ENPMM), to upgrade training contents in line with climate change adaptation, to secure access to land for the young men and women who will benefit from the project, and to manage this land to develop climate-smart agriculture.

64. Despite the diversity of players, the CRDE, under the operational supervision of the Union of the Comoros' Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Handicrafts, remain the main providers of advisory services for farmers and agricultural professionals.

65. CRDE's mission is to cover a wide range of thematic areas, from producer demand for advisory support to the promotion of facilitation tools for the production, supply and purchase of services. The CRDE network also plays a role in centralizing information for the management and dissemination of agricultural strategies defined by the Government of the Union of the Comoros. However, the CRDEs suffer from insufficient resources to fulfil their mandates and ensure a greater contribution to the development of entrepreneurship and the strengthening of climatic resilience, which are among the major challenges facing Comorian agriculture. Upgrading the selected CRDEs would make them reference centres for partnerships with the private sector and civil society to promote concrete, concerted action in terms of sustainable agricultural development for the benefit of young people and women.

### Sub-component A1 Strengthening, greening and diversifying the training offer

**Output A.1.1:** Three Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) are recalibrated regarding adaptation to climate change

**Output A.1.2:** Climate resilient assets secured

66. In light of the demand for training and the capacity of existing facilities, ECO-Youth will focus on improving the training offer through two main activities: (i) the recalibration of three CRDEs with the aim of promoting one reference centre per island in the trades of a climate-resilient agricultural value chain,

#### (i) Recalibration of three CRDEs regarding adaptation to climate change

67. The project will support the strengthening of the infrastructure and technical capacities of the Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE), to improve access to agricultural advisory services and develop rural entrepreneurship in the Comoros for the benefit of young people and girls. To this end, the project will undertake a preliminary socio-economic study to identify attractive occupations for young people in the field of rural development.

68. In this respect, the results of the "Agro-Hub" project carried out by the ILO in 8 countries showed that most self-employed young people in the agriculture sector (around 70-80%) prefer segments like input

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supply, aggregation, processing, marketing and services over production. In comparison to the production segment, these other segments appear to carry less risk. The preliminary socio-economic study should identify the segments of the agricultural value chain that could attract the youngest people, and the awareness-raising actions to make young people aware of the importance of agricultural production. The recalibration of the CRDEs is in line with the government's priorities for agricultural development and food security set out in the Union of the Comoros' Compact 2023-2028 for agriculture and food. The CRDEs are targeted as institutions providing training, advisory support and local supervision for producers and professional organizations, which are to host the bulk of the Compact's activities. Several technical and financial partners (TFP), such as the World Bank, the French Embassy and the FAO, have already supported the renovation and operationalization of seven Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) out of a total of nineteen CRDEs. ECO-Youth will help to ensure that the training and professional integration functions in the agro-sylvo-pastoral production sub-sectors of three reference centres are permanently anchored.

69. In the fisheries sector, the reference CRDEs, supported by ECO-Youth, will contribute to the sustainable exploitation and development of fisheries resources by improving conservation, processing and marketing systems, and promoting entrepreneurship in these areas.

70. The process of recalibrating the CRDEs identified at this stage will include:

- a. Identification of partner CRDEs;
- b. CRDE training curricula and trainers integrating climate change adaptation, including agroforestry, [agroecology](#), [permaculture](#), [thrifty irrigation](#), [climate-resilient crops](#), waste management/processing, composting, meteorological data processing and analysis, [sustainable fishing](#), etc.); and
- c. Integrating the Gender Action Learning System for Gender equality and climate change adaptation (GALS+). This method, adopted and applied by IFAD, aims to give women and men greater control over their lives, and promotes equal rights and opportunities by empowering the most vulnerable women and men to develop, negotiate, implement, and monitor their own plans to improve productivity and production quality, adaptive capacities, climate resilience, nutrition and increase their incomes. The approach aims to reduce the risks to their livelihoods by creating greater equality between men and women within households and increasing women's participation in economic decision-making.

71. A 2-hectare area will be established in each CRDE to serve as a learning, demonstration and application field for plant and animal production. This will be a place for collective, hands-on learning, enabling training beneficiaries to improve their critical analysis and decision-making skills. The proposed activities will be carried out directly in the field, notably in the form of problem-solving experiments, and will correspond to a particular local situation. This could include methods such as agroforestry, water conservation, soil management, improved seeds and integrated pest management practices, to improve the agricultural productivity and climate change resilience of production systems, crop diversification, and grazing land management.

(ii) [Climate resilient assets secured](#)

72. As a first step, ECO-Youth will ensure that rural youth groups have secure access to land. This activity is an essential prerequisite for setting up investments to develop these lands for sustainable agricultural activities. It will reassure young people and serve as an incentive to guide them toward agricultural production activities. The local and national authorities concerned will be involved to guarantee the legal status of the plots to be developed in relation to the groups of young people targeted by the project. It is important to emphasize here that ECO-Youth will support the creation of youth groups, in various forms adapted to the local context - POs, cooperatives, associations, etc. - in order to work only with organized groups of young people, as described in the paragraphs below (cf. Output A 2.2 *Setting up young rural producer organizations*).

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73. In the land management scheme for youth group activities, appropriate and climate-resilient water infrastructure will be built in line with the land use, as part of an integrated approach involving the beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Depending on the specific needs and configuration of the plots concerned, investments may include the construction of tanks, water supply systems and renewable energy sources (such as solar panels for water pumping).

74. At the same time, ECO-Youth will identify and implement "agro-ecological infrastructures," which include all so-called non-productive landscape elements, such as hedges, isolated trees, shrubs, and woodland strips. These are important measures for adapting to climate change, as they contribute to water and soil conservation and promote biodiversity.

75. On each island, ECO-Youth will invest in supporting the blue economy through the implementation of fish aggregating devices (FADs): awareness-raising and organization around FADs, technical training for the construction of FADs, training in FAD maintenance and management mechanisms. The project will support the prospection and delimitation of fishing zones within a legal and sustainable framework, as well as the strengthening of the biological rest monitoring system. These measures will have a positive impact on the management of the environment and natural resources.

76. In view of facilitating access to market, the project will invest in the renovation or construction of access-road tracks, according to the needs and to the resources available.

#### Sub-component A.2. Development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives

77. This sub-component will create favorable conditions for rural youth entrepreneurship and invest in training and professional integration. Two main activities will be carried out: structuring investments and training rural youth. To this end, the project will carry out social engineering, applied in a context of awareness-raising and support for the creation of rural cooperatives for young people. It will consist of using strategies and tools to mobilize communities, encourage adherence to collective projects, and overcome socio-cultural obstacles. The content of this social engineering will be defined during the design phase and will aim to educate, raise awareness, motivate, and provide concrete support as detailed below.

**Output A.2.1:** Capacity-building for young people in sustainable agriculture and fisheries achieved.

**Output A.2.2:** Young rural producer organisations set-up.

#### Capacity-building for young people in sustainable agriculture and fisheries achieved.

78. The project estimates that about 4950 young people, aged between 18 and 35, will be trained in the various schemes and courses. Implementation will consist of a series of interventions including facilitation and awareness-raising, identification, profiling and orientation of young people, and technical and vocational training for rural trades. The project will draw upon the creation/strengthening of youth groups that will be collectively supported to develop their productive activities. In this perspective, the project will promote the creation of rural youth enterprises, such as cooperatives, and will deploy all means to raise awareness, assist in establishment and structuring, and subsequently support the production and marketing process. Three phases have been identified at this stage, and will be further developed during the design phase:

- a) **Raising awareness among young people:** To enable young people on the three islands to find out about the project's activities and the opportunities available to them. Awareness-raising activities will be carried out on a large scale, reaching around 7.000 young people over the life of the project. Campaigns will also be organized to promote the advantages a collective organization for rural enterprise creation (as rural cooperatives or other forms of association), particularly in terms of access to financing, training and markets.
- b) **Identification, profiling and orientation of young people.** It will be preceded by a local needs assessment: identification of the region's agricultural needs, crops suited to the local climate

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Deleted: Young people trained in sustainable rural trades for income generation

Deleted: Creation of climate-resilient infrastructures in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors

Deleted: Young people's entrepreneurial and employment initiatives in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors will be supported by structuring investments that provide them with adequate and efficient services and infrastructures. In particular, the project will facilitate access to production factors and resources, as well as to markets and services. In particular, the project will support agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries investments, as well as the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures to support the development of these investments. Actions will be developed in synergy and complementarity with the implementation of the FORCE Jeunes project and ongoing initiatives developed by the government with the support of various partners (World Bank, French Cooperation, African Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), IFAD, etc.). On each island, ECO-Youth will invest in infrastructure and equipment.

Support for the blue economy through the implementation of fish aggregating devices

(FADs): awareness-raising and organization around FADs, technical training for the construction of FADs, training in FAD maintenance and management mechanisms. The project will support the prospection and delimitation of fishing zones within a legal and sustainable framework, as well as the strengthening of the biological rest monitoring system. These measures will have a positive impact on the management of the environment and natural resources.

To facilitate production and market access by developing market garden areas, building post-harvest infrastructure (storage warehouses, ecological cold rooms (CFE) attached to market garden areas), helping to rehabilitate tracks to transport produce away from production areas, supplying inputs to young entrepreneurs and small-scale producers in general by opening input stores, etc.

Infrastructures will be resilient to climate change and the use of renewable energies will be prioritized to reduce GHG emissions. This will be done in an environmentally friendly way, without destroying biodiversity, and will be taken into account in the definition of technical specifications for procurement. The structuring actions will be implemented in collaboration with institutions, the professional sector (private and cooperative) and civil society, according to their technical and institutional roles and mandates, while involving producers' associations/cooperatives, as well as young people and women living in the targeted villages.

Training young people in sustainable rural trades



and market opportunities, combined with stakeholder mapping. These assessments will be carried out during the design. In this phase, the aim will be to meet the various needs of young people in terms of access to training, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

c) Technical and vocational training for young people. The precise content of the training will be defined during the design mission, and will include capacity building in meteorological data processing and analysis. It could focus on sustainable agricultural practices (agroecology, permaculture, thrifty irrigation, climate-resilient crops); capacity-building in new fisheries technologies, new agricultural techniques, cooperative or group management, or the use of digital technologies

79. The project foresees to create/support an average of 3 groups of young people and/or cooperatives of young people per village, with 25 young people per group. In all, for the 66 villages targeted, 4950 young people will be sensitised and directed towards vocational training and will be able to associate within groups or cooperatives in the various agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors, the craft industry or the green and blue economy

(i) Young rural producer organisations set-up

80. Eco-Youth will promote, among other collective professional and entrepreneurial forms of organisations, the creation of agricultural cooperatives to increase the bargaining power of farmers and enhance access to financial resources, seeds, equipment, and training. The project will provide support for the legal creation of youth professional groups, for their structuring and training in management and organization techniques.

81. To this end, the project will contract partners to be identified, such as associations, to support the setting up and smooth operation of rural enterprises created by young people. In the same way, the project will promote the creation of fisheries and aquaculture cooperatives, will offer ongoing training in cooperative management, financial management, marketing and value chains for fisheries products.

## **Component B. Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities**

82. Throughout the value chain, so as to ensure a process that is adapted to climate change at every stage, from production to market access, ECO-Youth will promote the use of new climate-resilient technologies in the production and processing of agricultural and fisheries products, and will create a more enabling business environment through the use of ICTs, in line with Comoros' ambition to become an emerging country by 2030.

### **Outcome B .1 Enhanced Climate Adaptation in Agriculture and Fisheries**

#### **Output B.1.1 Green and climate resilient technologies and Climate smart agricultural practices promoted**

##### **Output B.1.2 Processing of agricultural and fisheries products enhanced**

###### **(i) Green and climate resilient technologies and Climate smart agricultural practices promoted**

83. The project will ensure that young farmers have access to necessary agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, irrigation tools) and climate-adaptive technologies (drought-resistant crops, water-efficient systems). It will promote agroecology and agroforestry, crop diversification as well as the adoption of smart agricultural technologies. This will not prevent the promotion of resilient traditional practices and can be combined with use of new technologies.

84. ECO-Youth will particularly promote the implementation of agricultural greenhouses as they play

**Deleted:** Implementation will consist of a series of interventions including facilitation and awareness-raising, identification, profiling and orientation of young people, and technical and vocational training for rural trades.¶

**Facilitation and awareness-raising.** To enable young people on the three islands to find out about the project's activities and the opportunities available to them, awareness-raising activities will be carried out on a large scale, reaching around 7,000 young people over the life of the project.¶

**Identification, profiling and orientation of young people.** Drawing upon a specialized system consisting of defined criteria, profile evaluations, and a validation committee, this intervention will be driven by awareness-raising efforts and seek to refine the orientations in line with the three pathways. In doing so, it aims to address the diverse needs of young people in accessing training, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities.¶

**Technical and vocational training for young people.** Depending on their profile, young people will be placed in one of three training and integration paths. The training, the precise content of which will be defined during the design mission, will include capacity building in meteorological data processing and analysis.¶ To achieve its employment objectives, the project will build partnerships with the Maison de l'Emploi (MDE) and the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture.¶

It is estimated that the 6,000 young people sensitized will be profiled and oriented, and that 4,500 of them will enter training courses (pre-vocational, junior and senior). Of these, 3,250 young people will be able to present project ideas in the various agro-sylvo-pastoral and halieutic, craft, digital and green economy sectors. A further 1,200 young people will be considered for salaried employment. A total of 3,250 business plans will be prepared, including 2,250 for juniors and 1,000 for seniors.¶

**Deleted: Green business partnerships and jobs.**

**Deleted:** Following on from the actions planned under Component A, ECO-Youth will continue to support young entrepreneurs by helping host companies to draw up business plans and ensure that they are bankable, as well as by providing follow-up support for financed business plans. The project's support for the companies concerned will focus on bringing them up to environmental standards and taking climate risk into account.

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a key role in adapting to climate change, particularly in vulnerable regions such as the Comoros. They increase productivity, protect crops from climatic hazards and promote more sustainable use of water resources. By combining technological innovation, good farming practices and financial support, greenhouses can play a key role in improving food security and the resilience of rural communities to the effects of climate change. Thanks to their innovative nature, they are also likely to attract more young people to agricultural production activities.

**(ii) Processing of agricultural and fisheries products enhanced**

85. To increase added value and improve incomes for young farmers ECO-Youth will support improved access to appropriate processing, storage technologies, and profitable markets.

86. Processing agricultural and fisheries products will make it possible to absorb production peaks and increase product lifespan and consumption. In the agricultural sector, the project will promote the post-harvest management by improving infrastructure for storage, processing, and transportation to reduce post-harvest losses, especially during extreme weather events. In the fisheries sector, ECO-Youth will provide equipment and targeted training for young people in seafood processing (drying, smoking, freezing) to add value to products and create new jobs in the value chain. This activity will be particularly favorable to the employment of women, as they are traditionally involved in processing and drying fish.

**Outcome B.2 Supporting access to the market**

87. ECO-Youth will achieve this objective through, on the one hand, the establishment of exchange platforms, the development of innovative networks of small agri-food businesses, the promotion of digitalization in the agricultural sector for the benefit of young farmers, particularly to develop e-commerce, as well as the creation of Public-Private Partnerships. These actions align with the Government's objectives of integrating the Union of the Comoros into the group of emerging countries by 2030 and contribute to the implementation of the "Comoros Digital Strategy 2028."<sup>20</sup>

88. 2 outputs contribute to the achievement of this outcome:

**Output B.2.1 Product marketing facilitated**

**Output B.2.2 Performance tracking and feed back**

**Product marketing facilitated**

89. Setting up platforms. ECO-Youth will encourage the development of innovative networks of small and medium-sized agri-food businesses, enabling the emergence of collective actions for the development of local value chains. Building networks among young entrepreneurs can provide mutual support, idea exchange, and collaboration opportunities. These networks can be formal, like entrepreneurial hubs, or informal, like social media groups. Peer networks can also facilitate mentoring relationships and collective advocacy for youth entrepreneurship. The establishment of these platforms will also facilitate the creation of short supply chains and improve the competitiveness of local products. Eco-Youth will cooperate with the FAO in this area.

90. Promoting the digitalization of the production and marketing activities. The Agence Nationale de Développement du Numérique (ANADEN) emphasized the critical importance of digitalizing the agricultural sector to enhance food security and attract young people to agricultural employment. However, ANADEN highlighted that key economic sectors such as fishing and agriculture are struggling to implement digital transformation, despite the significant potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to drive their development and global market integration.

91. ECO-YOUTH will work with the relevant digital players, in particular ANADEN, to encourage ECO-YOUTH beneficiaries to get involved in the digital economy. Young people often excel in using technology

Deleted: Output B.1.1: → Integration of young people into employment and business partnerships facilitated.¶

Deleted: Output B.1.2 Support for the environmental compliance of private partner companies¶

Deleted: (i) Integrating young people into employment. The integration of young people into employment will involve support for the development of business plans, which could be submitted for funding under the shared-cost mechanism provided for in subcomponent B.2.¶

<sup>20</sup> Agence Nationale Du Développement du Numérique (ANADEN). Stratégie Comores Numériques 2028.

and can effectively leverage digital tools to address challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs. From e-commerce platforms to social media marketing, technology empowers rural youth to access broader markets and optimize their operations. Enhancing digital literacy and improving access to technology can further boost their entrepreneurial potential. For instance, digital platforms and mobile technologies allow rural cooperatives to access vital information on markets, weather, prices, and agricultural trends. ECO-Youth will provide training to young people in utilizing digital tools to market their products online, with a focus on e-commerce platforms and social media networks.

92. **Promoting Public-Private Partnerships.** ECO-Youth will foster partnerships between the government, NGOs, and private sector to create opportunities for young farmers. This could include facilitating access to markets, offering mentorship, and creating investment opportunities in climate-resilient agricultural initiatives.

#### Performance tracking and feedback,

93. Adjusting farming practices and management processes based on data collected and feedback is essential to improving the profitability of young people's rural businesses and strengthening the climate resilience of agriculture. ECO-Youth will set up a monitoring and feedback system articulated around the following main activities:

- Set up a mechanism for regular monitoring of adjusted practices to assess their effectiveness (participatory evaluation system).
- Analyze the data collected to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities in current practices.
- Adjust farming practices according to yield data and climatic conditions Adjust farm management processes on the basis of profitability indicators and feedback.
- Encourage the adoption of new technologies based on data results
- Use lessons learned from adjustments to inform long-term planning
- Enrich exchanges on networks and platforms, enabling regular knowledge sharing and mutual support to improve farm business resilience and profitability.

### Component C. **Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas**

#### Subcomponent C.1. Support for policy instruments and the institutional framework

- Output C.1.1:** Relevant sectoral policies and strategies are supported
- Output C.1.2:** Key institutions supporting rural youth businesses are strengthened

94. In line with the PCE 2030 and sectoral policies (National Agricultural Investment Plan, National Gender Equity and Equality Policy, National Youth Policy, etc.) this sub-component will implement two main activities: (i) support for policies and strategies; and (ii) institutional strengthening.

95. Support for sectoral policies and strategies. ECO-Youth will support the review and updating of strategic frameworks and policies focusing mainly on youth, employment and gender, climate change adaptation, etc. The national youth policy (2017) highlights the major problems faced by Comorian youth. The policy document shows that support is needed in the legal, regulatory, institutional and operational spheres. The policy document is conceived as "...a framework document on which all public and private players, as well as technical and financial partners working in the youth and development sector, must base their actions", which makes all ECO-Youth support relevant.

96. Socio-cultural dynamics cause disparities between women and men. Aware of all these inequalities, the Government has recorded them in the National Gender Equity and Equality Policy (PNEEG 2017). It recognizes that "gender inequalities are a serious brake on the development and

Deleted: The project will collaborate with skilled and competent partners to develop quality business plan for each selected young person who meets the eligibility criteria for both the business plan and credit institutions. Selected service providers, which may include training institutions, will receive a mutually agreed number of business plans to prepare. In addition to this task, they will also support the project by assisting the young people to gather the necessary documents for the business plan and financing application. Once the business plans have been developed, they will undergo a quality control process through the project filter, including selection criteria, before being submitted to the validation committee. The list of criteria will incorporate the environmental and social policy standards set by the Adaptation Fund. To ensure thorough quality control, the project may engage occasional international technical assistance as needed. ECO-Youth will establish a strategic partnership with the MdE to operationalize a rural youth placement desk, organized around four main functions: ¶ Referencing all job offers in the productive sub-sectors promoted by the project and disseminating them on social networks; ¶ The creation of a database of young people trained on the various courses and their access to the private sector; ¶ Placement of trained young people with agri-SMEs within the framework of strategic partnerships with employers, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the National Investment Promotion Agency. The placement activity will also offer opportunities for pre-professional internships or pre-integration into salaried employment. ¶ Ongoing monitoring and dissemination of job offers in the fishing, farming and livestock sectors. ¶ Promoting green jobs. Regarding green jobs, the project will explore opportunities of economic and professional interest to young people in the agricultural production, entrepreneurship sub-sectors, and on skills development. To this end, the potential of social media platforms will be harnessed through the strategic utilization of LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram pages and groups. Similarly, communication by ECO-Youth actors/operators will involve the intensive use of profiles, videos, articles, and documents on these networks as well as on the Internet platform. All initiatives should clearly target green jobs (sustainable agriculture, climate-smart agriculture, etc.). ¶ The project will develop a catalogue of green and blue job opportunities, based on a study carried out at the start of the project; and (ii) introduce a bonus aimed at rewarding initiatives that sta... [1]

Deleted: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment ¶

evolution of Comoros, to the detriment of both men and women. They compromise the chances of reducing poverty and are at the root of the country's slow economic growth and the low quality of life currently experienced."

97. In terms of employment in general, and in rural areas in particular, the Plan Comores Emergent [2020-2030](#) (PCE) is based on a diagnosis of the failure of previous policies, with economic growth that is weak, volatile and insufficient to improve living standards and create sufficient decent jobs. Improvements are still needed in the implementation of the required actions.

98. ECO-Youth will support the development, review and implementation of policies relating to (i) employment promotion instruments; (ii) agricultural and rural development, with particular emphasis on the integration of young people and women, and adaptation to climate change; (iii) integrating rural entrepreneurship into training programs; (iv) improving the participation of women and young people in political dialogue; (v) gender for the empowerment and social inclusion of young people and women living in rural areas; (vi) policy-making for enabling green job environment. Within this framework, the project will support the development and implementation of a gender strategy for sustainable rural development, the updating of the National Environment Strategy, the National Environment Policy, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the National Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA)), the National Youth Policy and the development of a National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Rural Development.

99. Strategic partnerships and institutional strengthening. Assessments carried out as part of the NAP update process<sup>23</sup> highlight insufficient institutional capacity to implement climate change adaptation measures at all levels of government, as well as weak technical planning capacity. ECO-Youth will support the institutional strengthening of MET's General Directorate for the Environment and Forests, as well as the Directorate of Fisheries Resources and Agricultural and Livestock Strategies of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Handicrafts, the Ministries in charge of Youth and Employment, Vocational Training and Integration, Gender Promotion, Economic Integration and other stakeholders. Institutional support will selectively target key institutions in the provision of business services to rural women and young people, in particular [the National Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment \(INRAPE\)](#), the Maison de l'Emploi as part of its Strategic Development Plan revised in 2022, the Union of Chambers of Commerce and Chambers of Agriculture ; networks of POs/Cooperatives. This targeted support will facilitate the active participation of governing structures and beneficiaries in project implementation. A specific capacity-building program on integrating climate change adaptation into programs, plans and strategies will be developed and implemented for this purpose.

### Subcomponent C.2: Monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management

**Output C 2.1:** An M&E strategy is put in place

**Output C 2.2:** Knowledge products are created and disseminated

100. **Monitoring and evaluation.** The project will set up a monitoring-evaluation system (MES) based on the results-based management approach. The system's role will be to support shared understanding of the project, to improve management and efficiency, and to meet accountability, capitalization and learning requirements. It will make it possible to (i) measure the progress of project implementation, the achievement of expected outputs and outcomes, and the impact of interventions on target groups, and (ii) inform a list of basic gender indicators and age- and sex-disaggregated data.

101. Output data will be collected on an ongoing basis for beneficiaries and all project activities. Outcome and impact data will be collected on a sample of beneficiaries through baseline, mid-term and final surveys that will be aligned with IFAD's guidelines for the measurement of core outcome and impact indicators (IFAD Outcome and Impact Guidelines).

102. Knowledge management and communication. From the outset of the project, the National

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<sup>23</sup> MAPETA. April 2024: Workshop to launch the NAP development process.

Coordination Unit will draw up a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy with an operational implementation plan to capitalize on its experiences and innovations and enable knowledge sharing and scaling up, first internally within the project, then externally. Annual knowledge management and communication plans will be drawn up, budgeted and implemented at national and island level. As part of this strategy, monitoring and evaluation of the activities, products, effects and impacts of the project's interventions will form the basis of the learning and knowledge management process. The project will then seek to create a value chain between the implementation of activities, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, political commitment, institutional support and communication.

**B. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project/programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

103. **Economic benefits.** The project will facilitate access to production factors and resources, as well as to markets and services, notably by supporting agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries investments, as well as the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures to support the development of these investments. To this end the project foresees to invest about 1/5 of the total amount of the proposed (2,000,000 USD) in Climate-resilient infrastructures to empower young agro-pastoral and fisheries entrepreneurs. Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors will yield numerous economic benefits. These advantages include the creation of income-generating activities for 4950 young people. These investments will lead to: (i) an increase in income for direct project beneficiaries through the rural enterprises created and supported by the project; (ii) an improvement in food and nutritional security for rural populations, thanks to an increase in the quantity and quality of food, vegetable, animal and fish production, and to nutritional education; (iii) an increase in added value, employment and economic opportunities along the targeted value chains, thanks to an increase in the share of marketed and processed production, as well as in the financing available to develop private initiatives and win-win partnerships; (iv) an increase in tax revenues and an improvement in the balance of trade as a result of reduced imports; (v) economic empowerment of rural women and young people.

104. **Social benefits.** The project will generate social benefits by directly addressing youth unemployment through the creation of jobs and income-generating activities. The inclusion approach will be promoted through the innovative Gender Action Learning System for Gender equality and climate change adaptation (GALS+), which promotes empowerment, adaptive capacities, climate resilience, nutrition and gender equity in associations, cooperatives, and communities. The project will directly target 4950 young people from around 4,000 rural households with low incomes or vulnerable to poverty. Within these households, it will indirectly impact more than 20,000 people. In line with the project's gender focus, women will account for 50% of the young people directly benefiting. Taking gender into account in the criteria for setting up rural enterprises will help to improve the social status of this vulnerable category of Comorian society. In addition, and in line with national standards favouring the integration of people with disabilities (PWD) into economic activities, this category will represent 1.5% of young people.

105. **Environmental benefits.** As part of the Adaptation Fund, the project aims to strengthen sustainable resource management through the creation of jobs, businesses and income-generating activities in the agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors. Capacity-building for key institutions supporting young people in the creation of business plans will focus in particular on integrating climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resource management issues into training and apprenticeship curricula. Environmental sustainability criteria will also be introduced into the analysis grid for rural enterprises eligibility. Investments in climate-resilient infrastructure (around 2,000,000 USD) will also contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources. In addition, the project will be developed in accordance with the Adaptation Fund's 15 Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) principles, which serve as environmental and social safeguards. To ensure full compliance with the Adaptation Fund's requirements,

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the project has undergone screening against these principles, and mitigation measures have been identified where necessary, addressing any potential risks or challenges related to environmental and social safeguards. The project meets the overall objective of the NAPA, which is to help reduce the adverse effects of climate change on people's livelihoods and on the most vulnerable areas, thereby increasing their resilience to climate change and variability.

**C. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme.**

106. During the project design phase, a complete cost **analysis** of all components and activities will be carried out, as well as an analysis of alternatives to ensure profitability. This analysis will assess the financial implications of each component, taking into account factors such as direct costs (training and skills development costs, investment in infrastructure (equipment, buildings), salaries and wages, operational costs (raw materials, services, maintenance) and indirect costs (administrative costs, monitoring and evaluation costs, opportunity costs (potential benefits lost by choosing this option over another). At the stage of the concept note, a draft estimation of the cost-effectiveness is presented below.

Table 6: Cost-effectiveness table

Without the project	Project benefits
<b>Component A. Capacity building and green entrepreneurial and employment initiatives</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The CRDE will continue providing agricultural advisory services, but with lack of training field infrastructure, and without integrating Climate change adaptation into the training courses. Without financial and technical support, they will not have the capacity to play the role of incubator for promoting business activities for young people in agro-sylvo-pastoral sector.</li> <li>- The micro enterprises will not be able amplify the national professional training capacities by providing apprenticeship opportunities for young men and women.</li> <li>- Artisanal and small-scale fishing will continue in the absence of concrete measures for the sustained management of halieutic resources</li> <li>- Post-harvest losses will represent a significant loss of income for young people and women entrepreneurs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure and technical capacities of three Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) strengthened</li> <li>- Climate change adaptation integrated into the training curricula</li> <li>- Access to agricultural advisory services improved</li> <li>- Sustainable exploitation and development of fisheries resources ensured through the implementation of fish aggregating devices (FADs) and the strengthening of the biological rest monitoring system</li> <li>- Enhanced capacities of trainers and apprentice masters, with a particular focus on climate change adaptation measures within their professional activities.</li> <li>- Production and market access facilitated through development of market garden areas, building of post-harvest infrastructure (storage warehouses, ecological cold rooms (CFE) attached to market garden areas), rehabilitation of tracks to transport produce away from production areas.</li> <li>- Construction of climate resilient Infrastructures</li> </ul>
<b>Component B. Green business partnerships and jobs</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A business as usual will try to improve job employment for young people, without considering environmental concerns, and the need to integrate adaptation to climate change into the business plan.</li> <li>- Young entrepreneurs in the agro-sylvo-pastoralist activities, and in the fishing, will not be equipped to integrate climate change adaptation and sustainable natural resources management into their economic</li> </ul>	<p><u>Young people, organised in the form of cooperatives or other forms of rural enterprise, will be trained in all stages of the value chain in the context of adaptation to climate change:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Enhanced skills in climate-smart farming techniques and practices,</u></li> <li>- <u>Enhanced capacity in product conservation and processing,</u></li> <li>- <u>use of information tools to identify trends and access</u></li> </ul>

Deleted: <#>The private companies will not have any incentives and capacities to address the environmental norms in their economic processes

models	<p><a href="#">markets</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="#">benefiting from a feedback system to enable constant adaptation and improvement of sustainable production and marketing processes adapted to the environment</a>.</li> <li>- <a href="#">Translated with www.DeepL.com/Translator (free version)</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Component C. Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ministry of the Environment lack of human and technical resources to fully carry out its mission of developing, implementing and monitoring environmental and climate policies</li> <li>- The relevant sectoral structures (in charge of youth, agriculture and the advancement of women) and the devolved institutions on the islands do not necessarily have the capacity to incorporate adaptation to climate change into their respective sectoral development programmes.</li> <li>- There is no effective data collection system to monitor and measure the impact of economic activities on natural resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevant sectoral policies and strategies are supported (Gender strategy for sustainable rural development, National Environment Strategy, National Environment Policy, Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), National Program for Adaptation to Climate Change (NAPA), National Youth Policy, National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming in Rural Development)</li> <li>- Ministry of Environment capacitated to coordinate the elaboration and implementation of the national environmental and climate change related legal frameworks;</li> <li>- A M&amp;E system set up and conducted under the leadership of the Ministry of Environment</li> </ul>

**Deleted:** A catalogue of green and blue job opportunities established and regularly updated¶ In collaboration with the Chamber of Commerce, private companies supported to adopt recognized environmental standards and obtain, for some of them, environmental management certifications such as ISO 14001.¶ A green financing mechanism established to provide awareness-raising, profiling and guidance for 6,000 young people (4,500 of them trained); 3,250 business plans established in the various agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors; and 1,200 young people considered for salaried employment

**Deleted: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment**

**D. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national or sub-national sustainable development strategies**

107. Since 1994, the country has had a national environmental policy, strategy and action plan. The basic principle underlying this policy is the integration of the environmental dimension into the country's social and economic development, through the rational and sustainable management of natural resources and the redefinition or reinforcement of sectoral policies.

108. The country has adopted a comprehensive strategic framework for its development, the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) for the period 2010-2014, and has subscribed to the Millennium Development Goals and to the Sustainable Development Goals, which advocate environmental sustainability to reverse the current trend towards loss of environmental resources.

109. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental). In Comoros several other strategies, plans and programs, have been developed, such as the **National Environmental Policy (1994)**, which encompasses the various sectoral strategies. ECO-Youth, through its climate change adaptation measures in favour of young agripreneurs, will contribute to the implementation of all the environmental conventions resulting from Rio, and the strategies that flow from them. With regard to the **Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (and its Action Plan (2017-2021))** ECO-YOUTH will promote the sustainable use of natural resources (Strategic Orientation B of the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy), enhance the benefits derived from biological diversity through the valorisation of NTPF (Strategic Direction D), as well as capacity building (Strategic Direction E). In the marine resources sector, ECO-Youth will promote the implementation of Fish Aggregation Devices for the sustainable exploitation of the ecosystem, as part of the **Integrated Coastal Management Program**. With regard to the **Agricultural Strategy**, ECO-Youth will invest in building the capacities of the CRDEs in respect of climate resilience, as the CRDEs are at the heart of the Agricultural Strategy.

110. In addition, it will support the rational management of water resources and the combating of land degradation. ECO-Youth is also designed as a project to implement the **UNFCCC** in Comoros. It

contributes directly to the achievement of the NAPA, the NAP and the NDC: Table 3 above presents the main ECO-Youth foreseen contribution to the NDC planned adaptation measures by 2030.

111. The 3rd National Communication to the UNFCCC provides the priority adaptation activities by sector. The project will use the synthetic below table, in which the main relevant adaptation activities have been clustered by sector (Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Forestry Management, Water)

Table 7: Priority adaptation activities by sector<sup>24</sup>

<b>Agriculture</b>	<b>Livestock</b>	<b>Fisheries</b>	<b>Forestry management</b>	<b>Water</b>
<a href="#">Limiting sources of pollution</a>	<a href="#">Consolidating use of natural resources</a>	<a href="#">Develop and implement fisheries management plans</a>	<a href="#">Promote the reduction of the use of wood as a source of energy</a>	<a href="#">Build the capacity of SONEDE's supply agents and infrastructure.</a>
<a href="#">Raising awareness and coaching farmers on sustainable farming practices</a>	<a href="#">Promoting a good land tenure management of production areas</a>	<a href="#">Create or revitalise fishing councils at national level</a>	<a href="#">Reinforcing the forestry code</a>	<a href="#">Promoting the expansion of the drinking water distribution network</a>
<a href="#">Exploiting the wealth of our ecosystems</a>	<a href="#">Equipping farmers to adapt to different scenarios</a>	<a href="#">Implementation of a recovery plan for fish stocks</a>	<a href="#">Expand the national network of protected areas;</a>	<a href="#">Ensuring sustainable management of water facilities and distribution network</a>
<a href="#">Moving towards systems that are more resistant to climatic hazards</a>	<a href="#">Raising awareness of climate change and its consequences</a>	<a href="#">Improving conservation methods for fish products</a>	<a href="#">Encouraging agroforestry practices and better water management</a>	<a href="#">Making the water purification procedure more widely available by following the current water master plan</a>
<a href="#">Reduce phytosanitary products</a>	<a href="#">Améliorer la disponibilité de l'eau</a>	<a href="#">Support ANACM in processing and disseminating meteorological information to fishermen and fisheries managers.</a>	<a href="#">Restoring watersheds;</a>	<a href="#">Collecting rainwater and promoting small-scale water schemes</a>
<a href="#">Promote biodiversity.</a>	<a href="#">Improve access to appropriate veterinary services</a>	<a href="#">Implement a programme to rehabilitate and protect fishing-related infrastructure</a>	<a href="#">Adopt ecologically resilient plant species in reforestation projects</a>	<a href="#">Putting integrated water resource management (IWRM) into practice</a> <a href="#">Contributing to the restoration of catchment areas</a> <a href="#">Contributing to the protection of freshwater ecosystems</a>
<a href="#">Managing rainwater properly</a>	<a href="#">Developing skills, resources and infrastructure in the livestock sector</a>	<a href="#">Investing in boats and fishing equipment that are robust and resilient weather variations</a>	<a href="#">Encourage reforestation of arid land and/or land at risk of landslides</a>	<a href="#">Helping to restore watersheds</a>
<a href="#">Promoting access to agricultural credit</a>	<a href="#">Increasing farmers' access to financial capital and markets</a>	<a href="#">Improve the resilience of women active in the fishing industry by strengthening their economic and social power</a>	<a href="#">The use of "high-performance" stills that are more economical and more profitable in terms of products for the distillation of Ylang</a>	<a href="#">Helping to protect freshwater ecosystems</a>
<a href="#">Raise farmers' awareness of food</a>	<a href="#">Introduce improved cattle and goat breeds</a>	<a href="#">Reinforcing controls on illegal and destructive</a>	<a href="#">Ylang, which is a major consumer of wood</a>	<a href="#">Promote anti-erosion measures</a>

<sup>24</sup> Compilation from the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Communication on Climate Change. 2023



<a href="#">safety and encourage them to work towards it</a>		<a href="#">fishing techniques</a>	<a href="#">energy.</a>	<a href="#">(dry riprap, gabions, stone barriers) at the level of high cuttings and at the level of hydraulic structures</a>
<a href="#">Protect soil and groundwater from salinisation</a>	<a href="#">Encouraging artificial insemination</a>	<a href="#">Set up a national programme to combat coastal erosion</a>		
<a href="#">Use agroforestry</a>	<a href="#">Develop a feed production and marketing programme</a>			
<a href="#">Encourage organic farm</a>				

112. In terms of social inclusion, the project will also be aligned with the 2011- 2015 **Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy** (SRPC, 2011), the **National Gender Equity and Equality Policy** (PNEEG, 2007), and the **National Youth Policy** (2017).

**E. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

113. Regarding national technical standards and environmental and social policy, the project complies with applicable national and international law:

114. The Framework Law on the Environment (n° 94-018/AF) of June 1994, amended by Law n° 95-007/AF of June 19, 1995 and Ordinance n° 00-014 of October 9, 2000, defines the general principles of environmental protection and requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for all projects likely to have a negative impact on the environment (Article 11). No project may be carried out without environmental authorization from the DGE, and projects taking place in marine areas require joint approval from the relevant ministry and the DGE (Article 32). These laws lay down the basic rules for managing the environment and protecting it from all forms of degradation, with a view to protecting and promoting the rational use of natural resources, combating various forms of pollution and, consequently, improving the quality of life and the functioning of the ecosystem. Articles 73-88 of Law no. 94-018/AF, as amended by Law no. 95-007/AF, set out the penalties for various breaches of the provisions of these and other environmental laws.

115. **Decree no. 01-052/CE of April 19, 2001** governs the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process. According to Article 12 of Law no. 95-007/AF of June 19, 1995, the EIA report must include: (i) an analysis of the basic environment of the project site and its surroundings; (ii) an assessment of the foreseeable consequences of the implementation of the project for its natural and human environment; and (iii) a presentation of the measures planned to reduce or eliminate the harmful effects on the environment, and of the other possibilities, not retained, for implementing the project.

116. Order no. 12-012/VP of March 2012 establishes and defines the terms of reference for an EIA Assessment Committee.

117. The Water Act n° 94-037 of December 21, 1994 aims to guarantee the sustainable management of water resources in conditions that enable their conservation and protection against all forms of degradation and pollution, on the one hand, and their sustainable use and exploitation to meet the country's various needs and priorities, on the other. The Act defines the scope of application, the fundamental principles, the institutional framework for water resource management, the protection of water resources, in particular against the negative impacts of water pollution, the management of rainwater, the different use of water and the fines and penalties for breaches of the law.

118. Law n° 94-018/AF defines the marine environment in articles 31-36. Emphasis is placed on the importance of the marine environment to the economy of the Comoros. The law authorizes the Minister to promulgate regulations concerning fishing, requires environmental authorization for all developments in the marine environment, and prohibits the dumping of any waste in the ocean.

- (ii) **Law no. 88-006/PR of February 22, 1989** on forests and forestry provides the legal framework for reforestation and forest management.
- (iii) **Law n° 12-001/AU** regulates forestry and reforestation practices.
- (iv) **Law n° 06-010/AU of December 2, 2006** on plant protection in the Comoros, which defines the legal rules for the protection of plants and plant products, in particular those relating to: (i) phytosanitary protection in the Comoros; (ii) sanitary control of imports and exports; (iii) control of the distribution and use of phytosanitary products in the fight against pests of plants and plant products.

119. Law n° 07-011/AU concerns the sustainable development and management of fishing and aquaculture.

120. Law N°19-05/AU revising the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code. Title 3 is entirely dedicated to the protection of aquatic species and ecosystems, with the following objectives: (a) Control of activities likely to affect fishing interests; (b) Creation of ex-situ conservation environments; (c) Creation of aquatic protected areas.

121. Law N°23 -023/AU amending and supplementing certain provisions of Law N°07-0 11 /AU of August 29, 2007, revised by Law N°19-00S/AU of June 25, 19 revising the Fisheries and Aquaculture Code of the Union of the Comoros,

122. In the event of a legal vacuum, the relevant rules of international law, IFAD rules and the Adaptation Fund's environmental and social policy will apply.

**F. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.**

123. As illustrated in the table below, the ECO-Youth project is distinct from ongoing projects in the Comoros. While drawing lessons from these existing initiatives, ECO-Youth is innovative in its targeting of young people by creating sustainable jobs in the agro-sylvo-pastoral fields. However, ECO-Youth will work closely with the FORCE Jeunes project, which has been granted funding by IFAD, and is due to start up in January 2025. Complementarities and synergies between the two projects will be explored during the design mission.

*List of main projects financed by Technical and Financial Partners*

*Table 8: List of main projects financed by Technical and Financial Partners*

Project name	Type of Measure	Execution agency	Partner institution	Description	Budget	Complementarity and synergies
<b>Agricultural value chains project (GEF) 2023-2028</b>	Adaptation	DGEF (MAPE TA)	UNDP	The project aims to address the problems faced by farmers, namely the decline in yields and quality of traditional crops linked to the inevitable effects of climate change, the climatic vulnerability of the agricultural sector due to its low diversification, and the lack of capacity of national institutions and value chain actors, including smallholder farmers, to develop, oversee and implement efficient and cost-effective climate-resilient solutions that will provide decent and resilient livelihoods for the actors concerned.	8,932,420 USD	The 2 projects aim at enhancing capacity of national institutions and actors involved in agricultural development to disseminate climate-resilient practices. ECO-Youth will support only 3 CRDE, and for identified target groups (youth and women), while the UNDP project support all the CRDE and all the actors of the agricultural value chain. During the project design phase, an assessment will be made of the content of the training programmes provided by CRDE, so as to build on what already exists and calibrate the reinforcement measures to

						cover all the dimensions of adaptation to climate change in agricultural value chains.
<b>Protecting biodiversity through effective management of the national network of protected areas (GEF) 2022-2027</b>	Mitigation & Adaptation	DGEF (MAPE TA)	UNDP	The long-term solution proposed in this project to address the drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation is to improve the effectiveness of the recently established PA system to ensure the preservation and integrity of the ecosystem services on which the country's emergence and the livelihoods of local populations depend. The project will seek to implement this solution through improved concerted planning of land and resource use and ecosystem restoration within PAs.	4,424,479 USD	This project has no direct links with ECO-Youth foreseen activities, since ECO-Youth will not intervene in the Protected Areas.
<b>Ensuring a climate-resilient water supply (GCF) 2019-2027</b>	Adaptation	NC	UNDP	The aim of the project is to achieve a national paradigm shift in strengthening the climate resilience of water supply by integrating systematic climate risk reduction approaches into the governance and provision of water resources, watersheds, water supply infrastructure and user management, including planning, investment, design, operation and maintenance.	43,918,808 USD	While the GCF project aims to develop national instruments and tools to promote the integrated management of water resources, and to build very large hydraulic infrastructures, ECO-Youth will only be involved on a small scale in the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors. Exchanges of information between the two projects on their respective activities will be useful in identifying, as appropriate, the possible contribution of ECO-Youth to strengthening water supplies and increasing the resilience of water supply facilities.
<b>Biodiversity conservation through nature-based solutions, pillars of the blue and green economy in the Union of Comoros (GEF, concept approved) 2025-2032</b>	Adaptation	DGEF (MAPE TA)	UNDP	The BGI project addresses the lack of diversification of the Comorian economy and its high dependence on food imports, the unsustainable use of natural resources contributing to the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, the poor management of organic waste and the country's vulnerability to climate change. The project aims to transform the tourism, food and urban sectors into pillars of Comoros' blue and green economy through investments in nature-based solutions (NBS) at the landscape and seascape levels. The project seeks to change the way natural capital and NBS are considered in Comoros' legal and fiscal regulations and by public and private sector actors and investors.	10,040,000 USD	This project is in the design phase. During its implementation, it will be useful to discuss the nature-based solutions that this project could develop to combat the unsustainable use of natural resources and the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. ECO-Youth could benefit from this experience and in turn test nature-based solutions to support the blue economy as part of the envisaged development of Fish Aggregating Devices.
<b>Green and Blue Pact (EU) 2024-2029</b>	Adaptation	DGEF (MAPE TA)	Expertise France, AFD	The aim of this programme is to strengthen the environmental and food resilience of the Comoros Islands, combat irregular migration to the EU, and promote employment for young people and women, digital technologies, the creation of added value and the development of a circular economy.	14,400,000 Euros	Taking advantage of the fact that the Green and Blue Pact comes under the same Ministry, ECO-Youth will be working with this project to seek synergies and complementarities in the field of green job creation for young people and women.
<b>FORCE Jeunes (IFAD) 2025-2031</b>	Rural development	MAPE TA	IFAD	FORCE Jeunes aims to provide vocational training and decent jobs for young people in the Comoros. This will be achieved through vocational training, apprenticeships, the development of business plans for young people to find	USD 24,000,000	<a href="#">The ECO-Youth Project target professional groups of young men and women while FORCE Jeunes, which is not yet implemented, aims at providing jobs to individuals. In this</a>

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				employment opportunities and, where appropriate, become entrepreneurs (including men, women and people living with disabilities in the project's geographical areas) for rural enterprises in the green and blue economy, agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors.	<a href="#">sense no overlapping is anticipated. However, both projects will support the CRDEs: FORCE Jeunes plans to finance the construction of buildings and technical infrastructure for the CRDEs. ECO-Youth will support the development of demonstration perimeters with a view to adapting to climate change: setting up drip irrigation systems, introducing solar energy, etc. In terms of training content, ECO-Youth's support will focus on introducing climate change adaptation issues into the various training modules: sustainable land management techniques (water and soil conservation techniques), climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable management of fisheries resources, conservation and processing of post-harvest products, etc.)</a>
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**Deleted:** The two projects are to be implemented by IFAD, under the supervision of the Ministry in charge of the environment. It is therefore planned that, during the ECO-Youth design phase, the two projects will be analyzed to identify complementarities and synergies, and to see whether it is possible to achieve economies of scale through a strong collaboration between the two projects...

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**G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.**

124. To promote systematic learning and dissemination of this knowledge, a Knowledge Management and Communication Strategy, along with an operational implementation plan, will be developed the project's inception, as part of Component 3. The purpose of this strategy is to capitalize on the project's experiences and innovations and fostering knowledge sharing and scaling-up opportunities. The strategy will outline methods to promote the project's results and document its innovative approaches and activities, while also defining how this information will be effectively shared vis-à-vis project beneficiaries and external stakeholders.

125. This strategy will rely on the partner youth training institutions established under Components 1 and 2. The learning and knowledge management system will promote the collection, sharing and utilisation of knowledge related to project activities between project components but also at national level.

126. Further details of the project's approach to learning and knowledge management will be provided during the development of the full proposal. This will be informed by additional consultations with key stakeholders and community members in the target localities. The characteristics of the products and the role of information and communication technologies (ICT) in facilitating access to information, data sharing and communication among the stakeholders will be defined during project design. Online platforms, mobile applications or the use of social networks may be considered to facilitate continuous learning and collaboration between the various stakeholders.

**H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.**

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127. The mission took place from April 23 to May 4, 2024. The ECO-Youth project concept note is the result of consultations held with national decision-makers, technical and financial partners, as well as local

partners and potential beneficiaries.

128. At national level, the mission held meetings with several technical and financial partners, such as FAO, AFD, as well as IFAD (with the team of the IFAD Project PREFER). These partners were consulted to gather information about their own activities and their perspectives on the ECO-Youth project components, ensuring that the project aligns with existing initiatives, that there are no potential overlaps with these projects, and incorporates valuable stakeholder feedback.

129. MAPETA's Directorate General for the Environment shared the national priorities for sustainable natural resource management and extended an invitation to the mission to **participate to the National Adaptation Plan update process workshop**. Information from this workshop contributed to enriching the project's concept note.

130. Additionally, the courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture provided an opportunity to discuss the country's constraints and priorities in terms of youth employment and natural resource conservation.

131. Field visits to potential beneficiaries on the two islands of Grande Comore and Anjouan provided an opportunity to discuss their circumstances and aspirations. At Ndzuwani (Anjouan) island the mission met:

- 1) In this **commune of Bandakrouni**, located on the mountain of the same name, at an altitude of 800 metres, the mission visited **the Gombe site** and met with the Neema Gombe Group, composed of 30 members: 16 women/14 men;
- 2) **Village of Mrijou**, Mrongouni site: meeting with the Nya Moja women's group, made up of 35 women and one man; Mrijou Market Garden Organization composed of 3 women;
- 3) **NGO Maeecha** (discussion with the Programme Manager, with one Trainer and 3 students (girls);
- 4) **Meeting with the Mrémani CRDE** (meeting with the Manager and three CRDE members).

132. Specific conversations took place with women's groups, including those engaged in agricultural productions. Due to time constraints, it was not possible to organize focus group discussions, which will be conducted during the full design phase. However, semi-structured interviews were used to gather opinions, perspectives, analyses of the constraints faced, and proposed solutions.

133. The main findings are related to:

- Gender and Women's Rights: The issue of gender and women's rights is not well understood, highlighting the need for awareness campaigns on gender-specific challenges.
- Water Access: Limited water access remains the most significant constraint, including scarcity, remoteness, labor predominantly performed by women, and the lack of water tanks and water transport facilities.
- Land Accessibility: Challenges in accessing land plots persist due to the absence of road tracks and adequate means of transport.
- Crop Mechanization: The level of crop mechanization is limited, impeding agricultural productivity.
- Soil Conservation: In natural resource management, combating soil erosion is the primary challenge, followed closely by maintaining soil fertility.
- Product Processing: There is a strong need to enhance product processing capacities, including techniques for tomato preservation.
- Agricultural Development: There is high demand for more productive dairy breeds and the promotion of market gardening to encourage conservation practices.
- Women's Group Autonomy: Technical and financial support is needed to strengthen the autonomy of women's groups and ensure their long-term viability.

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- Capacity Development: Developing the technical and organizational capacities of group members is essential. Literacy is particularly noted as a critical need for the autonomy and development of these groups.
- Institutional Structuring: Support is required to strengthen the institutional structuring of the groups, enabling them to evolve into associations or cooperatives.

**I. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.**

134. The Union of the Comoros is ranked among the world's poorest countries, with a GDP per capita in 2022, and a poverty rate of 45%. The employment rate is only 54% of the population, and over 70% of those in work are poor. The Comoros national budget alone cannot cope with the economic, environmental and social consequences of extreme climatic and meteorological events such as tropical storms, floods, heat waves and droughts, landslides, volcanic eruptions and droughts, which are the main hazards impacting the Union of the Comoros, accentuating the vulnerability of certain ecosystems and groups of already fragile populations.

135. Component 1. The general observation is that public institutions working in the field of agriculture and fisheries in the Comoros are fragmented, inadequately staffed and poorly managed<sup>25</sup>. In the institutional landscape of actors in the sector, the Rural Economic Development Centres (CRDE) remain the main provider of advisory services for farmers and agricultural professionals. But the capacity of these institutions, which are essential to the fight against poverty and food security, remains weak in terms of both infrastructure and human resources. Several cooperating partners (France, World Bank, FAO) have undertaken to renovate and make operational 7 out of the 19 CRDEs<sup>26</sup>. But these important and necessary support measures are still insufficient to enable the CRDEs to make a greater contribution to the development of entrepreneurship and climate resilience, which are among the major challenges facing Comorian agriculture. This project will upgrade 3 CRDEs, one on each island, by financing the necessary infrastructure, building the technical capacity of staff and producing training content in agro-sylvo-pastoral fields that incorporates climate change adaptation issues and is attractive to young people (notably by introducing modern technologies, extending training to include aspects of processing and marketing agricultural products, etc.). ECO-Youth's aim is to turn these 3 CRDEs into reference centres capable of playing the role of incubators, helping the young people trained to develop bankable business plans for sustainable agro-sylvo-pastoral activities.

136. Under Component 2, the project will promote agroecology, agroforestry, crop diversification, and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural technologies. It will also support resilient and traditional practices to ensure young farmers have access to essential agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, irrigation tools) and climate-adaptive technologies, such as drought-resistant crops and water-efficient systems. Promoting agricultural greenhouses will be essential for adapting to climate change, as they combine technological innovation, good farming practices, and financial support to enhance food security and strengthen the resilience of rural communities against climate impacts. Additionally, processing agricultural and fisheries products will extend their shelf life and improve consumption. ECO-Youth will support improved access to appropriate processing, storage technologies, and profitable markets to increase added value and improve incomes for young farmers. The project will enhance infrastructure for storage, processing, and transportation to minimize post-harvest losses, particularly during extreme weather events. It will also provide equipment and targeted training in seafood processing techniques—such as drying, smoking, and freezing—to add value to products and create new jobs within the fisheries value chain, with a particular focus on benefiting women.

**Deleted:** <#>Field visits to potential beneficiaries on the two islands of Grande Comore and Anjouan provided an opportunity to discuss their circumstances and aspirations. Specific conversations took place with women's groups, including those engaged in agricultural productions. ¶ Discussions and meetings with local communities in Anjouan highlighted key constraints related to water access (cisterns requirements and water transportation), limited crop mechanization, challenging in accessing cultivated fields, the necessity for dairy breeds improvements and the importance of enhancing product processing capacities, including tomato preservation techniques. A visit to the Maeecha association's training structure confirmed the existence of infrastructures for the training and integration of young people, including girls. It also helped to identify the nature of young people's training needs, as well as the need for some young people to reskill in job-creating sectors such as processing. In fact, there are several conservation initiatives in the fisheries sector, such as a fish smoking unit in Mohéli. ¶ The Niamouga women's group, which we met in Anjouan, is an example of a spontaneous and successful initiative. Literacy is mentioned as an important need for the group's autonomy and development. They expressed the need for technical and financial support to strengthen their autonomy and make their group viable. These women face difficulties in accessing the plots, in the absence of tracks and means of transport. In terms of natural resource management, the fight against soil erosion is the most significant challenge for soil conservation, along with the issue of soil fertility. There is a strong demand for more productive dairy breeds and for the development of market gardening to promote conservation. ¶ At national level, the mission held meetings with several technical and financial partners, such as FAO and AFD. These partners were consulted to gather information about their own activities and their perspectives on the ECO-Youth project components, ensuring that the project aligns with existing initiatives and incorporates valuable stakeholder feedback. ¶ MAPETA's Directorate General for the Environment shared the national priorities for sustainable natural resource management and extended an invitation to the mission to participate to the National Adaptation Plan update process workshop. Information from this workshop contributed to enriching the project's concept note. Additionally, the courtesy visit to the Minister of Agriculture provided an opportunity to discuss the country's constraints and priorities in terms of youth employment and natural resource conservation. ¶

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<sup>25</sup>World Bank. 2020. Towards a more united & prosperous Union of Comoros - Systematic Country Diagnostic

<sup>26</sup> COMPACT. 2023. Comoros National Pact for Food and Agriculture

137. The project will invest in digital literacy and access to technology to enhance entrepreneurial capabilities of the young beneficiaries, and to enable rural cooperatives to be connected to information on markets, weather, prices and agricultural trends. Finally, to improve the profitability of young people's rural businesses and strengthen the climate resilience of agriculture. ECO-Youth will set up a monitoring and feedback system. It will adjust farming practices according to yield data and climatic conditions, and adapt farm management processes on the basis of profitability indicators and feedback.

138. **Component 3.** MAPETA lacks the human and technical resources needed to implement, monitor, and evaluate national strategies and action plans relating to climate change or biodiversity. Capacity is also insufficient to ensure the integration of climate change adaptation aspects into sectoral strategies. To this end, ECO-Youth will support the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Handicrafts, and the Ministry of Environment in charge of Tourism, to carry out their mission in this field. The economic, social and financial benefits that may result from the implementation of the above activities will be quantified at the design phase. However, we can already point to the following advantages:

- Value of Crops Saved: Increased crop value due to improved storage conditions and better access to production sites, particularly during the rainy season.
- Improved Water Availability: Enhanced crop value resulting from improved water availability on plots, facilitated by mechanical and biological measures that encourage rainwater infiltration and groundwater recharge.
- Resilient Crops: Value of crops preserved through the use of seeds that are less sensitive to water stress and excess water.
- Reduced Women's Workload: Significant reduction in women's workloads, with time saved from not having to collect fuelwood or fetch drinking water.

139. These activities will be implemented by combining measures aimed at: (i) supporting sustainable intensification on the most fertile land with ecosystem restoration and soil and water conservation on degraded or potentially degraded land; (ii) seek to create resilience in agriculture, fisheries, livestock, through a balance of environmental, social and economic benefits from the use of land, water, forests, fruit trees and marine resources; and (iii) monitor the impact and take into account lessons learned to regularly update community management plans for land and marine natural resources and to monitor and oversee the implementation of these management plans in exploited areas. This will ensure the sustainable realization of benefits. A Cost-benefit analysis of the project will be conducted based on models of agriculture, fisheries.

**J. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.**

The sustainability of the project has been considered in the design of the various components and will be further explored and clarified during the design phase.

140. **Component A.** The project involves the recalibration of 3 CRDEs, the heart of the permanent support system for young entrepreneurs. The aim is to strengthen the technical capacities of the CRDEs, so that they can expand and adapt their training offer to cover all the professional aspects of the agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors, integrate climate change adaptation aspects into their training curricula, and set up an ongoing support mechanism for the process. The other sustainability factor in this component concerns the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures to support young people's entrepreneurial initiatives in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors, adapted to local conditions and foreseeable climate change. These investments will support the blue economy by setting up fish concentration facilities, and will facilitate production and market access by developing market gardening areas and greenhouses, building

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post-harvest infrastructures (storage warehouses, ecological cold rooms (CFE), attached to market gardening areas), contributing to the rehabilitation of tracks for transporting produce out of production areas, opening input stores, and so on. The two other sustainability factors in this component are the training of young people in the various trades in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fishing sectors, and the organisation of young people in the form of rural enterprises (associations, cooperatives, etc.).

141. **Component B.** ECO-Youth will promote not only the green and climate resilient technologies and Climate smart agricultural practices, but also the enhancement of processing of agricultural and fisheries products, which will reinforce the sustainability of the overall production and marketing. The project will be innovative in its design of specific performance monitoring to provide feedback and lessons learned with a view to continually adjusting a cost-effective economic process that is constantly adapted to climate change.

142. **Component C.** The two main factors of sustainability in this component relate, on the one hand, to the integration of project activities into national policies and strategies and, on the other, to the capacity building of key institutions that support rural youth enterprises. The project is aligned with the PCE 2030 and sectoral policies (National Agricultural Investment Plan, National Gender Equity and Equality Policy, National Youth Policy, etc.) As such, the project will support the implementation of these policies and strategies, and provide support for the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment, Tourism and Handicrafts.

**K. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.**

Table 9: Environmental and social impacts and risks

Checklist of environmental and social principles	No further assessment required for compliance	Potential impacts and risks - further assessment and management required for compliance
Compliance with the Law	Low/no risk	The Concept Note has been developed to be in compliance with the legal frameworks of the Union of the Comoros. Relevant national, regional and district authorities have been/will continue to be consulted during proposal development to ensure compliance with all relevant laws. The project will comply with all national relevant laws, regulations and technical standards. In the absence of national standards, the project will apply internationally recognized standards.
Access and Equity		The project design supports equal access to training, equipment, infrastructures, and services, taking especially into account marginalized and vulnerable groups, namely women and youth. It is explicitly indicated through the objective itself of ECO-Youth, which is to target specifically young and women. All the components are built to provide young and women with training and capacity to build their rural enterprises on a gender balanced basis, (Component 1), to access to new technologies and to develop climate smart agriculture, as both young men and women, will be equal members in the association or cooperative supported by the project (Component 2). Equity will be guaranteed by the very nature of the interventions through the implementation

**Deleted:** The project involves the recalibration of 3 CRDEs, the heart of the permanent support system for young entrepreneurs. The aim is to strengthen the technical capacities of the CRDEs, so that they can expand and adapt their training offer to cover all the professional aspects of the agro-sylvo-pastoral sectors, integrate climate change adaptation aspects into their training curricula, and set up an ongoing support mechanism for the process, including support for the development of business plans for young people. The other sustainability factor in this component concerns the creation of climate-resilient infrastructures to support young people's entrepreneurial initiatives in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors, adapted to local conditions and foreseeable climate change. These investments will support the blue economy by setting up fish concentration facilities, and will facilitate production and market access by developing market gardening areas, building post-harvest infrastructures (storage warehouses, ecological cold rooms (CFE), attached to market gardening areas), contributing to the rehabilitation of tracks for transporting produce out of production areas, opening input stores, and so on.

**Deleted:** <#>Component 2. ECO-Youth will establish a strategic partnership with a long-term structure, the Maison de l'Emploi (MDE), to integrate the project's activity into national job creation policies and strategies, giving priority to young people and women. This partnership will enable trained young people to be placed with agro-SMEs as part of strategic partnerships with employers, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the National Investment Promotion Agency. Job offers in the fisheries, agriculture and livestock sectors will be continuously monitored and disseminated. The Green Finance Mechanism to be created will integrate adaptation to climate change and climate risk into financing mechanisms, and will be designed as a shared-cost mechanism, involving a financial contribution from the beneficiary. ¶

**Deleted:** <#>3

**Deleted:** <#>Plan National d'Investissement Agricole, Politique nationale de l'équité et de l'égalité du Genre, Politique Nationale de la Jeunesse

**Formatted:** English (UK)

**Deleted:** business plans

**Deleted:** funding for developing their own jobs in the agro-sylvo-pastoral fields



		of the 2 Components and the inclusion of criteria favourable to young and women in the <a href="#">selection of young men and women to be trained, as well as in the structuration of the rural enterprises supported by the project</a>
<i>Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups</i>	<b>Low/no risk</b>	The project has been designed to empower marginalized and vulnerable groups to make decisions on concrete adaptation actions, valuing their traditional and local knowledge, through the community adaptation planning process. Marginalized and vulnerable groups - especially women - will be consulted during the proposal development process to ensure that their identified threats, priorities and mitigation measures are reflected, while adequate mitigation measures are adopted in the project's ESMP.
<i>Human Rights</i>	<b>Low/no risk</b>	This project affirms the rights of all people and does not violate any pillar of human rights. The project will ensure respect for international and national labour laws and codes, as stated in <a href="#">AF and IFAD's policies</a> .
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>	<b>Low risk/ moderate risk</b>	The project will fully mainstream gender and will ensure that women and men and female and male youth equitably engage in and benefit from project activities such trainings and capacity building, or income generating activities. A Gender Assessment will be conducted during the full proposal development, together with a project's gender mainstreaming strategy as a central element of the exit strategy. During the Gender Assessment as well as during the further design and implementation of the project, women and women's groups will be intensively consulted. The Gender Assessment recommendations will be integrated into the ESMP and will inform project implementation.
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>	<b>Low/moderate risk</b>	The project will fully comply with relevant labour laws guided by the ILO labour standards. The ESMP which will be elaborated during the design phase will refer explicitly to the obligation for the contractors to comply with the requirements relating to the safety of workers in accordance with ILO Convention No. 62 insofar as they are applicable to the project. The Contractors should give priority to hiring labour from the surrounding areas to avoid the need for temporary workers' camps.
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	<b>No risk</b>	There are no indigenous people in the target area
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	<b>Low/no risk</b>	The project is not expected to lead to involuntary resettlement, neither in physical nor economic terms.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>	<b>Low/no risk</b>	During the full IFAD/AF project design, IFAD will carry out an ESA that will identify and exclude protected areas, ensuring that the project will not directly or indirectly impact negatively protected areas or high value conservation areas, in accordance with AF safeguards. In addition, and according to internal IFAD rules, the ESMP and the ESA will constitute part of the IFAD's Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>	<b>No risk</b>	The activities of this project will not adversely impact the conservation of biological diversity. During the full IFAD/AF project design IFAD will carry out an ESA that will ensure that the project will not directly or indirectly impact negatively biological diversity, in accordance with the AF safeguards.
<i>Climate Change</i>	<b>Low risk:</b>	The entire project is designed to reduce beneficiaries' exposure and vulnerability to the effects of climate change and increase their resilience. The project will not generate any significant emissions of greenhouse gases or reduce carbon sink capacity.
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<b>Low risk</b>	The project will not promote any drivers of climate change (emission of carbon dioxide gas from the use of fossil fuel and from changes in land use, methane and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture, emission of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride, other halocarbons, aerosols, and ozone). Project activities will be aligned on priorities defined in the NAPA

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		as well as the INDCs
<i>Public Health</i>	<b>No risk</b>	No adverse impact on public health related issues is envisaged.
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>	<b>No risk</b>	During the ESA carried out by IFAD in the full project design mission, full analyses will be carried out on the potential impact on the physical and cultural heritage of the project areas.
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>	<b>No risk</b>	The project will promote sustainable land management practices at territorial and farm level. Project activities will not pose risks to land and soil conservation, but rather will be specifically designed to address land degradation and promote sustainable land management and erosion control. Afforestation and agroforestry activities will additionally support protection and enhancement of lands and soil. The project will promote soil and water conservation management practices through the field trainings, aiming at restoring degraded land and improving ecosystem-based services.

**PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS**

**A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund**

Table 10: Alignment with the Adaptation Fund Results Framework

Project Outcome	Project Outcome Indicator	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
<b>Component A. Training an development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives</b>				
<a href="#">Outcome A.1</a> <a href="#">Strengthening, greening and diversifying the training offer.</a>	Young agro-pastoral and fisheries entrepreneurs capacitated	<b>Outcome 4</b> increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets	<b>Indicator 4.2.</b> Physical infrastructure improved to withstand climate change and variability-induced stress	3,000,000
<b>Component B. Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities</b>				
<a href="#">Outcome B.1</a> <a href="#">Development of a climate resilient agriculture and fisheries.</a>	<a href="#">Number of rural and fisheries enterprises created and functional</a>	<b>Outcome 6</b> Diversified and strengthened livelihoods and sources of income for vulnerable people in targeted areas	<b>Output 6.1</b> Percentage of households and communities having more secure access to livelihood assets	2,375,000
<b>Component C. <a href="#">Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas.</a></b>				
<b>Outcome C.1</b> Support for policy instruments and the institutional framework	Climate change priorities integrated into national and development frameworks for rural employment	<b>Outcome 7</b> Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures	<b>Indicator 7</b> Climate change priorities are integrated into national development strategy	120,000
Project Output	Project Output Indicator	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
<b>Component A. Training and development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives</b>				
<a href="#">Output A.1.2</a> <a href="#">Climate resilient assets secured.</a>	No. of physical assets strengthened or constructed	<b>Output 4</b> Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	<b>Indicator 4.1.2.</b> No. of physical assets strengthened or constructed to withstand conditions resulting from climate variability and change (by sector and scale)	2,000,000
<b>Component B. Green business partnerships and sustainable employment opportunities</b>				
<a href="#">Output B.1.2</a>		<b>Output 6</b>	<b>Indicator 6.2.1.</b> Type of	2,500,000

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Deleted: Development of entrepreneurial and employment initiatives

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Deleted: Young agripreneurs' business plans financed by the green financing mechanism  
Deleted: 700  
Deleted: Financing young agripreneurs

Deleted: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment

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Deleted: ,  
Deleted: Climate-resilient infrastructure to support young people's entrepreneurial initiatives in the agro-sylvo-pastoral and fisheries sectors is built

Deleted: Number of young agripreneurs financed

1.

Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017

<a href="#">Processing of agricultural and fisheries products enhanced</a>		Targeted individual and community livelihood strategies strengthened in relation to climate change impacts, including variability	income sources for households generated under climate change scenario	
<b>Component C. Strengthening of the policy and institutional framework for the greening of youth employment in rural areas</b>				
<b>Output C.1.1</b> Relevant sectoral policies and strategies supported	No. of sectoral policies and strategies supported	<b>Output 7:</b> Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	<b>Indicator 7.2.</b> No. of targeted development strategies with incorporated climate change priorities enforced	60,000

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A green financing mechanism for young agripreneurs business plans is set up

Deleted: Strengthening the policy and institutional framework for rural youth employment

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## PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

### A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government<sup>2</sup>

Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project:

FAWAZ MOHAMED MOUMINI Focal Point for the Adaptation Fund, Ministry of Environment in charge of Tourism	Date: <u>02/29/2024</u>
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### B. Implementing Entity certification

Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project contact person's name, telephone number and email address

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

<b>Implementing Entity coordinator:</b> Mr Pierre Guedez, Pierre Yves, Lead Climate and Environmental Funds, ECG division	Email: <a href="mailto:p.guedez@ifad.org">p.guedez@ifad.org</a>
--	---

Mr Juan Carlos Mendoza Casadiegos  
Director  
Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division

Date: 23 July 2024 e-mail: [ecgmailbox@ifad.org](mailto:ecgmailbox@ifad.org)

Project contact persons:

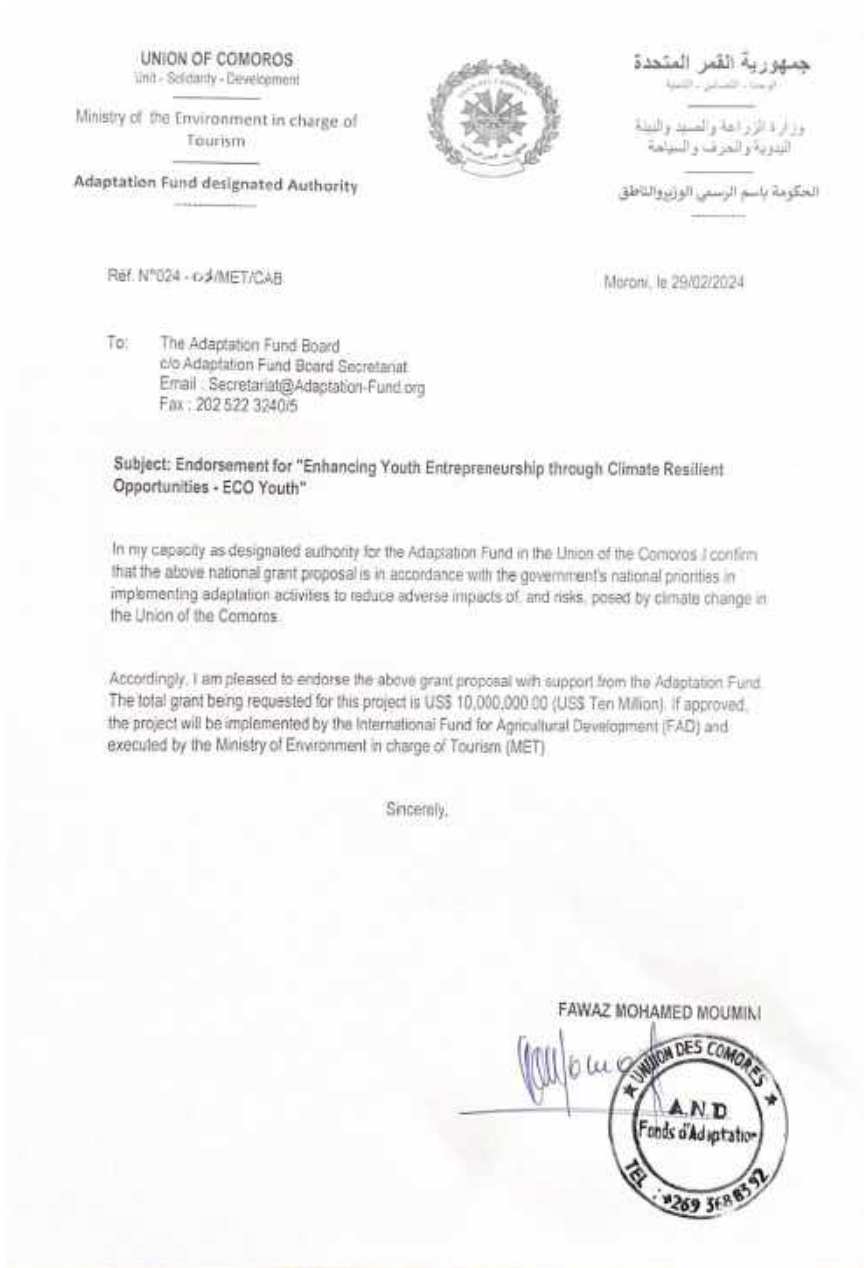
Mr Claus Reiner Regional Climate and Environment Specialist	e-mail: <a href="mailto:c.reiner@ifad.org">c.reiner@ifad.org</a>
Mr Joseph Rostand Olinga Bivole IFAD Comoros Country Director	e-mail: <a href="mailto:j.olingabivole@ifad.org">j.olingabivole@ifad.org</a>

Field Code Changed

Field Code Changed

1.

Annex 5 to OPG Amended in October 2017



2.



**Revised PFG Submission Form<sup>1</sup> (additions in red)**

**Project Formulation Grant (PFG)**

**Submission Date:**

**Adaptation Fund Project :** AF00000403

**Country/ies:** Comoros

**Title of Project/Programme:** Enhancing youth entrepreneurship through Climate Resilient Opportunities (ECO-Youth)

**Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE):** MIE

**Implementing Entity:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Executing Entity/ies:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for the PFG, Ministry of Environment Agriculture for the project

**A. Project Preparation Timeframe**

<b>Start date of PFG</b>	June 2025
<b>Completion date of PFG</b>	May 2026

**B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)**

<b>List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities</b>	<b>Output of the PFG Activities</b>	<b>US\$ Amount</b>	<b>Budget note<sup>2</sup></b>
Consultancies and contracts to develop program	Full proposal of the Eco-Youth project	77,250	Consultancy fees: USD 64,250 Travel fees: USD 13,000
Detailed Vulnerability Assessment of Targeted Villages Using GIS Mapping and Remote Sensing to Determine Project Sites and Levels of Land Degradation	Vulnerability assessment report including maps	20,000	Consultancy fees: USD 20,000
Gender and Environmental and Social risk analyses and formulation of	Environmental and Social Management Plan and	40,000	Consultancy fees: USD 30,000

<sup>1</sup> As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

Environmental and Social Management Plan and Gender Action Plan. This document is required as part of the submission of the full proposal.	Gender Action Plan formulated.		Travel costs: USD 10,000
IE Fee (8.5% of total)	-	12,750	-
<b>Total Project Formulation Grant</b>	-	150,000	-

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

The PFG activities requested for the ECO-Youth project will support the formulation of the full proposal including field visits and stakeholder engagement, ensuring that the Executing Entity will be provided with a complete design package to fast-track implementation. The activities proposed are detailed below:

**1. Consultancies and contracts to develop program**

IFAD is requesting additional funds to top up the budget it allocates for the design of Adaptation Fund projects. The fund will be used to address the issues the Adaptation Fund raised during the review of the project concept note. IFAD proposes to hire 3 consultants (national and international) to improve the quality of the full proposal. The proposed cost amounts to USD 77,250, covering consultancy fees and travel costs.

**2. Detailed Vulnerability Assessment of Targeted Villages Using GIS Mapping and Remote Sensing to Determine Project Sites and Levels of Land Degradation**

The Union of the Comoros is a small, fragile island state facing significant environmental and economic challenges, including low growth and high vulnerability to external shocks. Natural disasters and climate change—manifesting as prolonged droughts, declining rainfall, rising annual temperatures, and shifting seasonal patterns—exacerbate environmental degradation, particularly land degradation, which directly threatens food security and community livelihoods.

To address these interlinked challenges, a detailed vulnerability assessment will be conducted to identify fragile ecosystems and guide climate change adaptation efforts. The study will utilize GIS mapping and remote sensing technologies to analyze environmental vulnerabilities across the targeted villages, assess the level of land degradation, and identify priority project sites for intervention. Remote sensing will play a critical role in monitoring land cover changes, detecting areas of significant land degradation, and providing data-driven insights to inform adaptive strategies.

By linking the assessment of land degradation with climate vulnerabilities, the study will ensure a more integrated approach to adaptation planning. Vulnerable areas will be mapped and analyzed to provide evidence-based recommendations for strengthening ecosystem resilience and reducing exposure to environmental shocks.

**3. Gender and Environmental and Social risk analyses and formulation of Environmental and Social Management Plan and Gender Action Plan**



The Adaptation Fund requires a robust and evidence-based gender and environmental and social risk analysis, based on the list of identified sites for project interventions. For the full proposal, IFAD and the Ministry of Environment in charge of Tourism propose to carry out thorough data collection and analysis for gender, marginalized populations, as well as for the assessment of environmental and social risks. The risk analysis will inform the formulation of a robust Environmental and Social Management Plan and Gender Action Plan. IFAD will hire two international consultants for this assignment, a gender specialist and an environmental specialist who will work jointly. The cost of USD 40,000 includes consultancy fees for 15 days as well as fieldwork costs for one week.

**For LLA Projects only:**


If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

**C. Implementing Entity**

IFAD will be the Implementing Entity with fiduciary and technical oversight. While IFAD will also be the Executing Entity for the PFG, the Ministry of Agriculture will be the Executing Entity of the project.

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board’s procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund’s criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
Pierre Yves Guedez Lead Multilateral Climate & Environmental Funds (AF, GCF, GEF), IFAD		12/18/2024	Claus Reiner Regional Climate and Environment Specialist, IFAD	+254 11 5492302	<a href="mailto:p.guedez@ifad.org">p.guedez@ifad.org</a> <a href="mailto:c.reiner@ifad.org">c.reiner@ifad.org</a>

Appendix 1 List of people we met

LIST OF PEOPLE MET IN THE FIELD					
Friday, April 26, 2024					
Elaboration of the concept note for the Adaptation Fund meeting at BANDRAKOUNI village, site: GOMBE					
N°	NAME AND FIRST NAME	GENRE	FUNCTION	Institution	Tel. Email
1	ISSIAKA MAHAMOUD	M	Farmer	NEEMA GOMBE Group	
2	MARIAMA SAID	F	Farmer	Ditto	
3	HOUSSNATI MOUHAMMADI	F	Farmer	Ditto	
4	TOIWIYA HAMZA	F	Farmer	Ditto	
5	FAZAENTI SALIM	F	Farmer	Ditto	447 00 46
6	HAOULATI ISSOUF	F	Farmer	Ditto	483 40 77
7	FATIMA IBRAHIM	F	Farmer	Ditto	
8	ASSIATI ANLI	F	Farmer	Ditto	
9	ANZIZA AHAMED	F	Farmer	Ditto	
10	FATIMA MOUSSA	F	Farmer	Ditto	468 22 08
11	BINTI SAID	F	Farmer	Ditto	
12	MARIAME MOUSSA	F	Farmer	Ditto	
13	MARIAM SAID	F	Farmer	Ditto	364 97 52
14	ZARENTI SOUMAILA	F	Farmer	Ditto	
15	SALIMA SAID	F	Farmer	Ditto	
16	SOIFIA DJAHA	F	Farmer	Ditto	
17	ATTOUMANE ANLI	M	Farmer	Ditto	
18	ABOU AHAMADI	M	Farmer	Ditto	425 39 14
19	MASSONDI MIRHANE	M	Farmer	Ditto	430 27 42
20	SAINDOU DJAZILA	M	Farmer	Ditto	
21	SOUMAILA SAID	M	Farmer	Ditto	320 66 97
22	HOUMADI OUSSENI	M	Farmer	Ditto	
23	FADHURDINE AHAMED	M	Farmer	Ditto	
24	MOUSSA MAHAMOUD	M	Farmer	Ditto	467 48 94
25	MAKOUNETTA ALI	M	Farmer	Ditto	
26	ABDOU SOILHI	M	Farmer	Ditto	
27	ABDALLAH AINSSA	M	Farmer	Ditto	
28	SOUMAILA ISSOUF	M	Farmer	Ditto	490 25 55
29	MOUTHIHATI OMAR	F	Farmer	Ditto	
30	TOYIBOU ALI	M	Farmer	Ditto	
31	MARIE-CLARISSE CHANOINE	F	CLIMATE/ENV SPECIALIST	IFAD	<a href="mailto:m.chanoine@ifad.org">m.chanoine@ifad.org</a>
32	MOUSSA MALIDE	M	RESP URAT ANJ	PREFER	<a href="mailto:moussa.malide@gmail.com">moussa.malide@gmail.com</a>
33	ABDOUL ANZIZ ALI SAID	M	RESP. INSULAIRE SUIVIL-ÉVALUATION	PREFER	<a href="mailto:abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com">abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com</a> +269 349 25 11
34	YOUSSEF BRAHIMI	M	Consultant	FIDA	<a href="mailto:y.brahimi@gmail.com">y.brahimi@gmail.com</a>

35	Ouwattara Gustave	M	Consultant	FIDA	-
<b>Friday, April 26, 2024</b>					
<b>Elaboration of the concept note for the Adaptation Fund Meeting at MRIJOU village, site: MRONGOUNI</b>					
N°	NAME AND FIRST NAME	GENRE	FUNCTION	Institution	Tel. Email
1	Soidifati Attoumane	F	FARMERS	MRIJOU MARKET GARDEN ORGANIZATION	
2	Amina Toyibina	F	FARMERS	MRIJOU MARKET GARDEN ORGANIZATION	
3	Rayikata Attoumane	F	FARMERS	MRIJOU MARKET GARDEN ORGANIZATION	
4	Zainabou Ousseni	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA Group	
5	Eliza Said	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
6	Nathirati Attoumane	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
7	Zaraha Said	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
8	Saendati Ahamed	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
9	Chamsia Anlim	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
10	Mouniyati Abdou	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
11	Mariam MDIGO	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
12	Aousoiti Ibrahim	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
13	Nafadhoiti Chakri	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
14	Saendiya Houmadi	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
15	Hadidja Sebe	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
16	Zaina Said Chirobo	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
17	Anziza Ibrahim	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
18	Zaanfati Majajou	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
19	Latufa Ankili	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
20	Mariati Omar	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
21	Dhoiraenti Majajou	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
22	Hidjani Houmadi	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
23	Loulou Ali	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
24	Soifiya Chamou	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
25	Antilati Nourdine	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
26	Taenbati Ousseni	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
27	Aniyati Nourdine	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
28	Chaima Abdou	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
29	Ladaenti Boinali	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
30	Houlfati Yahaya	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	

31	HIMIDATI SOULAIMANA	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
32	ANZLANE YAHAYA	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
33	ASNADI OUSSENI	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
34	ANFIDATI SOULAIMANA	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
35	NAKISSOITI AMIR	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
36	ROIFIKA ZAKARIA	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
37	MARTINE HOUMADI	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
38	NAFOUANTI YOUSOUF	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
39	ZARNA IBRAHIM	F	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
40	SOULAIMANA MAJAJOU	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
41	KALED SOULAIMANA	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	458 72 17
42	MOUSTAENLI AMIR	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	449 16 04
43	ATTOUMANI SAINDOU	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	
44	AMIR HAMIDOU	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	328 23 66
45	HOUMADI SOULAIMANE	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	435 78 27
46	DHOIMIR MOUSSA	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	492 13 48
47	SOULAIMANE HOUMADI	M	FARMERS	NIYA MOJA GROUP	322 71 67
48	MARIE-CLARISSE CHANOINE	F	SPECLSTE CLMT/ENV	FIDA	<a href="mailto:m.chanoine@ifad.org">m.chanoine@ifad.org</a>
49	YOUSSEF BRAHIM	M	Consultant	FIDA	<a href="mailto:Y.brahim@gmail.com">Y.brahim@gmail.com</a>
50	MOUSSA MALIDE	M	RESP URAT ANJ	PREFER	<a href="mailto:moussa.malide@gmail.com">moussa.malide@gmail.com</a>
51	ABDOUL ANZIZ ALI SAID	M	MONITORING & EVALUATION	PREFER	<a href="mailto:abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com">abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com</a>
52	Ouwattara GUSTAVE	M	Consultant	FIDA	-
<b>Friday, April 26, 2024</b>					
<b>Drafting of the design brief for adaptation funds Meeting with the NGO MAEECHA</b>					
N°	NAME AND FIRST NAME	GENRE	FUNCTION	Institution	Tel. Email
1	RASMINA MALIDE	F	STUDENT	MAEECHA	
2	ECHATI THAKIWANI	F	STUDENT	MAEECHA	450 36 18
3	NAIDA ARSALADINE	F	STUDENT	MAEECHA	
4	NAOUIRDDINE OMAR	M	TRAINER	MAEECHA	348 00 00
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10	OUWATTARA GUSTAVE	M	Consultant	IFAD	-
<b>Friday, April 26, 2024</b>					
<b>Drafting of the design brief for adaptation funds Meeting with the Mrémani CRDE</b>					
1	KARIMA MOUSSA	F	MANAGER	CRDE	<a href="mailto:moussa.karima@yahoo.fr">moussa.karima@yahoo.fr</a>
2	MAHAMOUD BEN MOUSSA	M	T A	CRDE	443 14 45
3	TOIMIDDINE DJAZILA	M	COLLECTION AGENT	CRDE	427 97 28
4	DHAKIOINE MOUHAMADI	M	AGRICULTURAL AGENT	CRDE	338 31 26
5	MOUSSA MALIDE	M	RESP URAT ANJ	PREFER	335 19 42
6	SOUONDATI MALIDE	F	T A	PREFER	
7	OUWATTARA GUSTAVE	M	Consultant	FIDA	
8	MOHAMED MOUSSA	M	T A	PREFER	3373079
9	MARI- CLARISSE CHANOINE	F	CLIMATE/ENV SPECIALIST	FIDA	<a href="mailto:m.chanoine@ifad.org">m.chanoine@ifad.org</a>
10	YOUSSEF BRAHIMI	M	Consultant	FIDA	<a href="mailto:y.brahimi@gmail.com">y.brahimi@gmail.com</a>
11	ABDOUL ANZIZ ALI SAID	M	RESP. INSULAIRE SUIVIL-ÉVALUATION	PREFER	<a href="mailto:abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com">abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com</a>
<b>Saturday, April 27, 2024</b>					
<b>Drafting of the design brief for adaptation funds Meeting with the Environment Department</b>					
1	ABDOUL ANZIZ ALI SAID	M	ISLAND RESP- SE	PREFER	<a href="mailto:abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com">abdoulanziz2550@gmail.com</a>
2	DR. ZAKARIA MOHAMED GOU	M	ASSIT TECHQ	DREF (Environment)	<a href="mailto:zakaria.gou@gmail.com">zakaria.gou@gmail.com</a>
3	MARI CLARISSE CHANOIRE	F	SPECLSTE CLMT/ENV	IFAD	<a href="mailto:m.chanoine@ifad.org">m.chanoine@ifad.org</a>
4	YOUSSEF BRAHIMI	M	Consultant	IFAD	<a href="mailto:Y.brahimi@gmail.com">Y.brahimi@gmail.com</a>
5	MOUSSA MALIDE	M	RESP URAT ANJ	PREFER	<a href="mailto:moussa.malide@gmail.com">moussa.malide@gmail.com</a>
6	OUWATTARA GUSTAVE	M	Consultant	PREFER	-

PROSPECTIVE DES EXPLORATIONS AEROPORTS PARLAIRES ET AIRLANCE

**PREFER**

**FIDA**

Programme d'Appui au Développement de l'Aviation Tunisienne (PADAT)

DATE RELEVÉE: 19/07/2014

**BOURJ BOUJDI**

DATE et LIEU: 18/07/2014 à Bourj Boujdi

OBJET: Mission de supervision de l'état et de l'évaluation de la sécurité des opérations de vol effectuées par les compagnies aériennes opérant à Bourj Boujdi

N°	NOM ET PRÉNOM	SEXE	FONCTION	INSTITUTION	TELÉPHONE	REMARQUES
1	Abderrahmane Belkhal	F	Directeur	PREFER		Prés
2	Abdelhak Belkhal	F		PREFER	098 96 14 20	Prés
3	Abdelhak Belkhal	F				Prés
4	Abdelhak Belkhal	F				Prés

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**PROYECTO DE EDUCACION AGRICOLA FAMILIAR Y RESILIENCIA**  
**PREPER**  
 Programa Piloto de Preparacion de Agricultores y Resilientes  

**FIDA**  
 Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrario  
 Programa Piloto de Preparacion de Agricultores y Resilientes (PREPER)

**UNTA REGIONAL DAPRA (COMUNE 001)**  
 Agaña

**FECHA DE PRESENCIA**  
 2020-11-10

**OBJETIVO** *Elaborar el presupuesto de gastos de elaboracion de un plan de negocios para la familia de agricultores*

Nº	NOMBRE PERSONA	GENERO	EDUCACION	EXPERIENCIA	TELÉFONO	SIGNATURA
1	RODOLFO ALI WILLO	M	Agri. 10	Agri. 10	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Dr. Edithel Rosales	F	Agri. 10	PREP	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Mrs. Rosemarie Santos	F	Agri. 10	PREP	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	YOUNG BRANIN	M	Agri. 10	FIDA	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>


**PROYECTO DE EDUCACION AGRICOLA FAMILIAR Y RESILIENCIA**  
**PREPER**  
 Programa Piloto de Preparacion de Agricultores y Resilientes  

**FIDA**  
 Fondo Internacional de Desarrollo Agrario  
 Programa Piloto de Preparacion de Agricultores y Resilientes (PREPER)

**UNTA REGIONAL DAPRA (COMUNE 001)**  
 Agaña

**FECHA DE PRESENCIA**  
 2020-11-10

**OBJETIVO** *Elaborar el presupuesto de gastos de elaboracion de un plan de negocios para la familia de agricultores*

Nº	NOMBRE PERSONA	GENERO	EDUCACION	EXPERIENCIA	TELÉFONO	SIGNATURA
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3	Marcos Hernandez	M	Agri. 10	Agri. 10	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Younge Brannin	M	Agri. 10	FIDA	0917 222 1111	<i>[Signature]</i>

