**GEF-8 CHILD Project CONCEPT**

GENERAL CHILD PROJECT INFORMATION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Child Project Title: | The Greater Nokoue Greening Program (GNGP) | | |
| Country(ies): | BENIN | GEF Child Project ID: |  |
|  |  | Type of Child Project | Full Sized Child Projectf |
| GEF Agency(ies): | BOAD | GEF Agency Child Project ID: |  |
| Anticipated Executing Entity(s) and Type: | Ministry of the Environment, Transport and Sustainable Development | Government | |
|  |  | |
| GEF Focal Area(s): | Multi Focal Area | Submission Date: | 29/03/2023 |
| Type of Trust Fund: | GEF Trust Fund | Child Project Duration (Months) | 36 months |
| GEF Child Project Grant: *(a)* | 7 139 450 USD | GEF Child Project Non-Grant *(b)* | 0 |
| Agency Fee(s) Grant: *(c)* | 642 550 USD | Agency Fee(s) Non-Grant: *(d)* | 0 |
| Total GEF Financing: *(a+b+c+d)* | 8 000 000 million USD | Total Co-financing: | 166 million USD |
| PPG Amount *(e):* | 200, 000 USD | PPG Agency Fee(s) *(f)*: | 18,000 USD |
| Total GEF Resources (a+b+c+d+e+f) | 8 000 000 million USD | | |
| Project Sector  (CCM only) | Mixed & Others | | |
| Program | Sustainable cities | | |

\*\*\*POP-UP material start

* Program non-grant amounts (if any) only apply to child projects participating in Programs other than IPs.
* Sector must be filled all MFA Child Projects including CC funds or exclusively using CC funds

\*\*\*POP-UP material end

### CHILD PROJECT FINANCING TABLES

### GEF Financing Table

*Indicative Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/ Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **GEF Project Financing** | **Agency Fee** | **Total**  **GEF Financing** |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | BD | BD STAR Allocation: IPs | 1 784 862 | 160 638 | 1 945 500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | CC | CC STAR Allocation: IPs | 1 784 862 | 160 638 | 1 945 500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | LD | LD STAR Allocation: IPs | 1 784 862 | 160 638 | 1 945 500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | BD | BD IP Matching Incentives | 594 954 | 53 546 | 648 500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | CC | CC IP Matching Incentives | 594 954 | 53 545 | 648 499 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | LD | LD IP Matching Incentives | 594 954 | 53 545 | 648 499 |
| Total GEF Resources | | | | | 7 139 448 | 642 550 | 7 781 998 |

### Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

*Is Project Preparation Grant requested?*  *Yes  No*

*If yes: fill in PPG table (incl. PPG fee)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/**  **Global** | **Focal Area** | **Programming**  **of Funds** | **(in $)** | | |
| **PPG** | Agency  Fee | **Total PPG Funding** |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | BD | BD STAR ALLOCATION: IPs | 50,000 | 4,500 | 54,500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | CC | CC STAR ALLOCATION: IPs | 50,000 | 4,500 | 54,500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | LD | LD STAR ALLOCATION: IPs | 50,000 | 4,500 | 54,500 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | BD | BD IP Matching Incentives | 16,666.67 | 1,500 | 18,166.67 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | CC | CC IP Matching Incentives | 16,666.67 | 1,500 | 18,167.67 |
| BOAD | GEF TF | BENIN | LD | LD IP Matching Incentives | 16,666.67 | 1,500 | 18,166.67 |
| Total PPG Amount | | | | | 200,000 | 18,000 | 218,000 |

### Sources of Funds for Country STAR Allocation

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GFEF Agency** | **Trust Fund** | **Country/**  **Regional/Global** | **Focal Area** | **Source**  **of Funds** | **Total** |
| BOAD | GEFTF | BENIN  BENIN  BENIN | BD  CC  LC | BD STAR Allocation  CC STAR Allocation  LD STAR Allocation | 2 000 000  2 000 000  2 000 000 |
| **Total GEF Resources** | | | | | 6 000 000 |

### Indicative Focal Area Elements

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Programming Directions** | **Trust Fund** | **(in $)** | |
| **GEF Project Financing** | **Co-financing** |
| Sustainable cities | GEFTF | **7 139 448** | 166 million |
| **Total Project Cost** |  | **7 139 448** | 166 million |

### Indicative Co-financing

*\*\*\*POP-UP material start*

*Please provide indicative information regarding the expected amounts, sources and types of Co-Financing, and the sub-set of such Co-Financing that meets the definition of Investment Mobilized.*

*\*\*\*POP-UP material end*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sources of Co-financing** | **Name of Co-financier** | **Type of Co-financing** | **Investment**  **Mobilized** | **Amount ($)** |
| Other | GCF (To be realized) | Grant and Loan | Investment mobilized | 166 million |
|  |  |  | |  |
|  |  |  | |  |
| **Total Co-financing** | 100 million USD | 66 million USD Investment from BOAD | | 166 million |

**TABLE ON CORE INDICATORS**

### Core Indicators

### Core Indicators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Core Indicators** | | **Expected at PFD** |
| 1 | **Terrestrial protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare) |  |
| 2 | **Marine protected areas** created or under improved management (hectare) |  |
| 3 | Area of **land and ecosystems under restoration** (hectare) | 200 |
| 4 | Area of **landscapes under improved practices** (hectare) | 8000 |
| 5 | Area of **marine habitat under improved practices** (hectare) | 10 000 |
| 6 | **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated** (metric ton of CO2e) | direct: 650 000 tCO2eq - indirect; 6 000 000 t CO2 eq |
| 7 | **Shared water ecosystems** under new or improved cooperative management (count) |  |
| 8 | Globally over-exploited **marine fisheries** moved to more sustainable levels (metric ton) |  |
| 9 | Chemicals of global concern and their waste reduced (metric ton of toxic chemicals reduced) | 60t/m |
| 10 | Persistent organic pollutants to air reduced (gram of toxic equivalent gTEQ) |  |
| 11 | People benefiting from GEF-financed investments **disaggregated by sex** (count) | 1.2 million female  1.3 million male |

*Explain the methodological approach and underlying logic to justify target levels for Core and Sub-Indicators (max. 250 words, approximately 1/2 page)*

The agglomeration of Grand Nokoué brings together the economic capital of Benin, Cotonou, the administrative capital, Porto-Novo and two residential municipalities: Abomey-Calavi and Sèmè-Podji. This urban area of 2.5 million habitants represents a third of Benin's GDP.

Despite Grand Nokoué status, protected areas are not exempt from pressures. The disappearance or degradation of habitats leading to a loss of biodiversity is due to their destruction and the overexploitation of terrestrial and aquatic flora and fauna. In addition, climate change and a deficient institutional and regulatory framework have also contributed to the degradation of biodiversity.

For justifying target levels, the methodological approach aims for:

* Preservation of existing natural resources and the environment in general
* Controlled urban and economic development
* Consideration of government projects
* Development of nature in the city, the green economy, soft mobility and the blue plan
* Restoration of the living environment of the populations in contribution to the achievement of the SDGs
* Carbon sequestration
* Reduction of greenhouse gases.

Finally, the development of the banks will take into account Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) with a variable intensity of development

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. Country Context (*maximum 500 words*)

*Describe the country’s relevant environmental challenges and strategic positioning relative to the systems transformation proposed for the program, including relevant existing policies, commitments, and investment frameworks. How are these aligned with the proposed approach to foster impactful outcomes with global environmental benefits?*

Challenges faced by Benin are twofold: maintaining its ecological footprint while assuring economic development to improve the living conditions of the population.

The cities of the Greater Cotonou agglomeration concentrate environmental problems with a strong impact on the health conditions of the population: poor sewage disposal, deficient waste management (household, industrial, biomedical), dense traffic and air pollution. These trends would lead to a deterioration in living conditions, marked by an increase in unemployment and underemployment, impoverishment of the most vulnerable groups and the development of precarious housing. If current trends continue, population growth will lead to:

- continued densification of the outlying districts of Cotonou and the municipalities of Abomey-Calavi (Godomey), and Sèmè-Podji (Ekpe, Djeffa);

- the continuation of the spatial extension of the urban agglomeration with the occupation of areas unsuitable for habitation by the populations.

- the worsening of urban congestion exacerbated by the multiplication of critical points within administrative and business areas;

- the worsening of the state of under-equipment and deficit in urban public services linked to the weak financing capacity in relation to investment needs;

- increased water pollution linked to the anarchic occupation of shallows, marshes and natural channels;

- insalubrity in urban areas and flooding, difficulties aggravated by the demographic dynamics of the agglomeration and the continued urbanization of low-lying areas unsuitable for housing;

- an increased air pollution linked to car traffic and the development of polluting industrial activities;

- investment needs outside the financing possibilities of local authorities.

The country, through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) has set a vision, reflected in the Decree No. 2016-501 of 11 August 2016 on attributions, organization and operation, to "Make Benin by 2025, a green country with a healthy living environment, attractive and conducive to economic growth".

Several policy documents, plans and strategies, at national, sectoral, and local levels, have been developed and guide the implementation of the Greater Nokoué Greening Programme (GNGP). These include (i) the Government Action Program for the period 2021-2026; (ii) the National Water Policy; (iii) the Framework Law on the Environment; (iv) the National Hygiene and Sanitation Policy; (v) the National Land Use Planning Policy Statement; (vi) the National Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019-2030; (vii) the Nationally Determined Contribution updated in 2021 (NDC); (viii) the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2022-2030; (ix) the Sanitation Master Plans; (x) the Low Carbon and Climate Change Resilience Development Strategy 2016-2025 and (xi) the Delegation Agreement for the Maintenance of Stormwater Networks in the City of Cotonou.

A National Fund for Environment and Climate Finance is established for mobilizing resources to support programmes and projects aimed at protecting the environment, natural and forest resources.

In addition, a new law No. 2021-14 of 20 December 2021 on the Territorial Administration Code in the Republic of Benin has been adopted.

All the above demonstrates the Government's commitment to putting in place the framework conducive to the successful implementation of the program and the sustainability of projects and activities.

1. Project Overview and Approach (*maximum 1250 words*)
2. *Provide a brief description of the geographical target(s), including details of systemic challenges, and the specific environmental threats and associated drivers that must be addressed;*

      The GNGP is part of the dynamic of building a sustainable and resilient African city that is no longer only oriented towards its citizens but in harmony with the natural setting and in full knowledge of contemporary challenges such as: attractiveness, connectivity, mobility, adaptation to climate variability, conservation and sustainable management of ecosystems as well as employment needs. It is an inter-communal area bringing together the five largest cities in southern Benin with more than 2,500,000 inhabitants and representing nearly 20% of the estimated total population. It concentrates numerous activities and functions (commercial, industrial and residential). Cotonou is highly exposed to climate change and its negative effects, including sea levels rising. The environmental risks are a major obstacle to the sustainable development of the cities, with many populations living on flood plots.

The significant urbanization of the coast is one of the causes of environmental degradation: coastal erosion, sewage discharges, sand withdrawal. Cities (Cotonou agglomeration) concentrate environmental problems with a strong impact on the health conditions of the population: poor sewage disposal, poor waste treatment (household, industrial, biomedical), dense traffic and air pollution. The GNGP has chosen to plan projects that are part of the logic of the green economy. Those are (i) resilient; (ii) adapt to environmental pressures; (iii) significantly reduce poverty and social disparities; (iv) provide a healthy and clean environment for the population; (v) significantly improve human security; (vi) contribute to the reduction of air, soil and water pollution.

1. *Describe the existing or planned baseline investments, including current institutional framework and processes for stakeholder engagement and gender integration;*

      The program will be based on the Cotonou City Stormwater Sanitation Program (PAPC) whose total cost is estimated at $ 440 million. It aims to definitively get the city of Cotonou out of flooding, through the construction of storm drains and development of related roads. BOAD has already financed this program, which is in the start-up phase, to the tune of $ 66 million. In addition, it should be noted that the Green Climate Fund (GCF) will be solicited for additional funding of 100 Millions. The project is divided into several phases and GEF resources will be used to create an enabling environment for the execution of other investments. To this end, the GCF will be called upon to finance investments in subsequent phases.

The Government of Benin has initiated, in the communes of Greater Nokoué (Cotonou, Porto-Novo, Abomey-Calavi, Ouidah and Sèmè-Podji), a project to modernize the management of household solid waste, the main objective of which is to improve the living conditions of the inhabitants in the long term and to create jobs to combat poverty. The implementation of this project led to the creation, by decree 2018-542 of 28 November 2018, of the Waste and Sanitation Management Company (SGDS – SA).

The 5 mayors of the concerned municipalities are members of the board of directors of SGDS which is responsible for the sanitation and maintenance (cleaning) of the sanitation works. Operating funds come in the first years entirely from the State in the form of a grant. This subsidy will gradually decrease in favor of a direct contribution from municipalities based on an economic model to be defined in a specific agreement to be signed between the parties.

The project will be under the supervision of (MESD) represented by the Road Infrastructure and Spatial Planning Company (SIRAT), as the Project Executing Authority.

A Steering Committee (SC) will be set up. It will be composed of the MESD, the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD), the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT), the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), the Bureau of Analysis and Investigation (BAI), the Agency of the Living Environment for the Development of the Territory (ACVDT) and the Cotonou City Hall.

SIRAT will set up a Programme Coordination Unit (CCP) composed of a Coordinator, a Civil Engineering Specialist, a Procurement Specialist, a Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, a Chief Accountant, an Environmental Safeguard Expert, a Social Safeguard Expert, a Social Facilitation Expert and a Hydraulic Expert.

The GNGP was designed with a cross-cutting approach aimed at the contribution of all stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. The private sector will be closely involved in the development of gentle ways on Lake Nokoué, in connection with the ecotourism village of Avlékété; the systematization of economic models in a logic of private exploitation of urban parks; etc.

The Gender dimension is mainstreamed in the entire GNGP and is in full compliance with the National Policy for the Promotion of Gender in Benin. The overall objective of the National Policy for the Promotion of gender is to achieve equality and equity between men and women in Benin by 2025 for sustainable human development.

1. *Describe how the integrated approach proposed for the child project responds to and reflects the Program’s Theory of Change, and as such is an appropriate and suitable option for tackling the systemic challenges, and to achieve the desired transformation with multiple global environmental benefits; and*

The projects relate to non-polluting and energy-consuming activities and eco-activities aimed at protecting the environment or managing natural resources. They want to promote sustainable and sustainable development in the long term.

Benin has signed and ratified most relevant MEAs which create a basis for building the national capacity to implement in a consistent manner GEF projects and programs: These MEAs relate to:

- Climate Change – UNFCCC- Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement;

- Biodiversity (CBD, Biosafety, Nagoya Protocol, CITES, etc.…)

- Chemicals (Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Conventions)

- Ozone (Vienna Convention, Montreal Protocol)

Benin has initiated and is implementing various measures and programmes to address deforestation, atmospheric pollution, biodiversity loss, waste management, and as such has adopted the following laws can be cited:

- Law N°2021-14 of 20 December 2021 on the Code of Territorial Administration in the Republic of Benin, which grants communes important prerogatives regarding the environment, hygiene and healthiness of the living environment.

Law N°2022-04 of February 16, 2022 on public hygiene in the Republic of Benin Law No. 2017-15 of 26 May 2017 on the Land and Property Code in the Republic of Benin, amending and supplementing Law No. 2013-01 of 14 August 2013.

      The program approach integrates three sustainable urban dimensions: Fostering nature in cities - Preserve Biodiversity - and Promote Green Economy. It will promote "Soft mobility" which consists for the construction of piers, marinas, multimodal hubs; the implementation of river transport; the creation of right-away reserves for mobility corridors; the development of smart travel plans; walking and hiking routes. The Soft Mobility Plan Bleu will be a source of job creation and income. Lagoon transport will sustainably reduce the congestion but also the accident rate on the roads.

The program has chosen to design and implement projects that are part of the logic of the green economy. They will ensure resilience, adaptability to environmental pressures, significantly reduce poverty and social disparity, provide a healthy and clean environment for the population, significantly improve human security, and contribute to the reduction of air and water pollution. The implementation of the Cotonou City Stormwater Sanitation Program aims at definitely getting the city out of flooding through the construction of storm drains and development roads and improved waste management practices. Consequently, the program will generate significant global environmental benefits.

1. *Describe the project’s incremental reasoning for GEF financing under the program, including the results framework and components.*

The themes, components and projects of the GNGP are designed to align with GEF financing modalities, public and private, aimed at promoting resilience, biodiversity and climate adaptation of territories. Thus, several themes and issues intersect with the main areas of funding of international donors, making it easier to mobilize resources such as:

- The preservation and increase of green spaces (parks, rows of trees, forests, wetlands, etc.) at the same time as the increase in the legibility of the green fabric of the agglomeration and the use of green spaces in daily practices

- The preservation and strengthening of biodiversity and the preservation of the major ecological balances of the territory

- The contribution to the protection of populations against the effects of climate change (sea levels rise)

- The reduction of GHG by CO2 sequestration for example

- The preservation of market gardening and fishing areas throughout the agglomeration and the sustainable increase in their productivity

- The job creation and diversification

- The promotion of sustainable tourism

- The strengthening of sustainable river navigability and soft mobility

The program aims at integrating three sustainable urban dimensions: - Fostering nature in cities – Preserve Biodiversity – and Promote Green Economy – It will promote "Soft mobility" which consists of projects for the construction of piers, marinas, multimodal hubs; the implementation of river transport; the creation of right-of-way reserves for mobility corridors; the development of gentle travel plans, walking and hiking routes.

The overall aim is to boost river transport in a sustainable way in the Lake Nokoué-Lagoon complex of Porto-Novo. A 2017 World Bank study shows that global demand can be estimated at 5,000 travelers per day.

The Soft Mobility and Plan Bleu projects will be a source of job creation and income. Boatmen and other actors involved in the field will be recruited.

Lagoon transport will substantially reduce the congestion but also the accident rate on the roads.

1. Engagement with the Global / Regional Framework (*maximum 500 words*)

*Describe how the project will align with the global / regional framework for the program to foster knowledge sharing, learning, and synthesis of experiences. How will the proposed approach scale-up from the local and national level to maximize engagement by all relevant stakeholders and/or actors?*

BOAD generally provides supervision and end-of-execution reports to draw lessons on the implementation of the projects it funds. It also conducts retrospective evaluation of projects, which may result in guidelines that are published within the Bank and to partners

In addition, BOAD is a member of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC), a network of 27 national, regional and bilateral development banks.

The program was designed with a cross-cutting approach aimed at the contribution of all stakeholders. The implementation of the various components is envisaged in support of university research according to a logic of direct applicability of research solutions on the proposed projects: which alignment tree to plant for example on our projects, from laboratories that have worked on disease resistance? With the private sector: it is the development of gentle ways on Lake Nokoué, in connection with the eco-tourism village of Avlékété that is envisaged; There will also be the systematization of economic models in a logic of private exploitation of urban parks.

The municipalities covered by the GNGP program are members of various national, regional and international platforms and networks that will serve as channels for information and knowledge disseminating and sharing about the program. These include, among others: the National Association of Municipalities of Benin (ANCB), the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) bringing together more than 334 cities in Africa, including 18 in Benin, the United Cities and Local Governments network (UCLG) Africa Section, the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) network of which Cotonou and Porto Novo are members.

The program will put particular emphasis on the development of knowledge products such as articles, newsletters, information bulletins which will be disseminated regularly through all these networks in order to stimulate the scaling up of the program in other countries."

In the countries of the sub-region, this model could be duplicated in terms of knowledge sharing by:

1. Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to plan, design, build and manage resilient infrastructure;
2. Improving the capacity of local authorities to adopt a systemic approach to resilience ;
3. Strengthening the capacity of local authorities to use community-based solutions nature and to seek an innovative approach to dealing with resilience at the local level;
4. Provision of evidence-based data and resources explaining why and how cities can effectively reduce disaster risk and climate risk.
5. Strengthening their understanding of localized and systemic risks through awareness-raising activities.

In order to make the techniques and methods used in the context of the project replicable and in order to unify the practices within the various technical services concerned, illustrated methodological manuals-guides will be developed for the following 3 themes:

* A methodological guide manual dedicated to the "Planting of primary and secondary roads".
* A Methodological Guide manual dedicated to "Hydraulic continuity" including urban drainage channels;
* A Methodological Guide manual dedicated to the development of "Banks" with different levels of intensity. management and nature-based solutions (NBS).