# **Ecosystem-based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean**



### **Challenges**

The Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles are extremely vulnerable to climate change.

People, agricultural land and infrastructure are concentrated in coastal areas, which are exposed to rising sea levels and increased frequency and severity of cyclones.

Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) promotes the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.

Apart from a few pilot projects, AfE funding is currently insufficient and civil society organizations are not sufficiently engaged.

## Response

In response to the challenges of climate change in the Indian Ocean island countries, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has prepared a new program entitled *Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in the Indian Ocean* (EBAIO), financed by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), through l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) as the Accredited Entity.

The new program will provide targeted funding to mobilize CSOs in implementing AfE, to promote the conservation, improved management and restoration of ecosystems to provide the essential services people need to adapt to climate change and variability.

Goal

To reduce the vulnerability of island populations by securing the critical ecosystem services they need to be resilient to climate change. To this end, the program has three components:

- 1. Developing strategic plans for EbA in the small island biodiversity hotspot that are well aligned with national climate change strategies.
- 2. Supporting EbA activities through grants to CSOs.
- 3. Ensuring long-term sustainability and replicating success through knowledge products and tools for EbA.







#### Priorities for ecosystem-based

adaptation:

- Decreased provision of freshwater due to degraded watersheds.
- Increased flooding due to conversion of ecosystems providing flood regulation.
- · Loss of coastal protection due to damage to mangroves and coral reefs.
- Declines in fisheries productivity due to loss of nursery habitats.
- Decreased agricultural production due to heat stress and drought.



## **Expected results**

1.23 million ha of intact coastal ecosystems with strengthened management



0.6 million ha of intact watershed forest ecosystems with strengthened management

4,000 ha of degraded coastal ecosystems restored

2,000 ha of degraded watershed forest ecosystems restored

2,000 ha of climate-resilient agroforestry established

2,000 ha of small island ecosystems with alien invasive species removed

33,000 females and 33,000 males with increased income as a result of ecosystem-based livelihood activities

305,000 females and 305,000 males receiving non-cash benefits as a result of enhanced delivery of ecosystem services

25 CSOs with an institutional capacity score of 80% or more on CEPF's Civil Society Tracking Tool

**US\$5** million of capital invested in long-term financing mechanisms (endowment funds, revolving funds, etc.) to support EbA activities beyond the end of the program.

#### Workplan

2021-	Update of ecosystem profile to
2022	identify and prioritize EbA actions

Selection and contracting of 2022 Regional Implementation Team

Grantmaking to CSOs for EbA 2022-

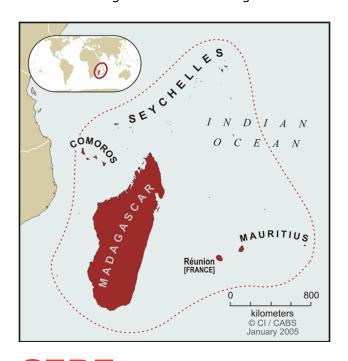
activities 2026

Update of ecosystem profile to identify and prioritize successful 2026

EbA approaches

Amplification of successful 2027approaches through grants to 2031 CS0s

Establishment of long-term 2027financing mechanisms and 2031 integration of EbA into government



CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. A fundamental objective is to ensure that civil society is engaged in the conservation of biodiversity.

More information:

https://www.cepf.net/madagascar-and-indianocean-islands/ecosystem-based-adaption

https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp135